Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-012
Thursday
19 January 1989

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-012 *19 January 1989*

CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 January Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Call to 'Uprising' on Israeli Measures *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 2
Al-Hasan on Dialogue With U.S., European Role *[MENA]* 2
Nayif Hawatimah on Differences Over Government *[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 17 Jan]* 3
'Time is Ripe' for Government *[KUNA]* 3
'High Level' Talks Held With USSR in Tunis *[Algiers VOP]* 4
PLO Official on Coming Israeli 'Military Blow' *[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 17 Jan]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Delegation Goes to Tabah Area for Talks *[MENA]* 5
Commentary on Shamir's 'Procrastination' *[AL-AKHBAR 12 Jan]* 5
Butrus Ghali Comments on Arab Ties, Issues *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
Soviet Minister of Power Departs 18 Jan *[MENA]* 7
70,000 Reportedly Belong to Islamic Groups *[AL-WAFD 16 Jan]* 7
Strategy Against Islamic Groups Changed *[AL-SHA'B 10 Jan]* 7
Security Organs To Study Religious Extremism *[AL-WAFD 17 Jan]* 7
Ulema Meet, Rebut Charge of 'Infidelity' *[AL-AKHBAR 2 Jan]* 8

Libya

More on Resolution Urging Boycott of U.S. *[JANA]* 9
Construction Chief on Al-Rabitah Complex *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Jan]* 10
PLO's 'Arafat Greets Al-Qadhdhafi *[JANA]* 10
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives UAE President's Message *[JANA]* 11
Al-Talhi Reviews Stands on Egypt, U.S., PLO *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 12 Jan]* 11
Lebanese Communist Leader Hawi Arrives *[JANA]* 13
Visiting Algerian Official on U.S. 'Aggression' *[JANA]* 13

Morocco

King Meets With Algerian Foreign Minister 14
Minister Comments on Meeting *[Rabat Radio]* 14
Western Sahara Discussed *[Algiers Radio]* 14

Sudan

Nasir Garrison Holds Out Against 4,000 Rebels *[SUNA]* 14
Rebel Attacks on Relief Trains Reported *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
Armed Forces Chief Calls for Unity *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
Council of South Chairman on Rebels *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
Minister on Hard Currency Smuggling *[SUNA]* 15
Libya Asks Release of SPLA-Held MiG Pilot *[SUNA]* 16

Tunisia

President Sees Moroccan, Mauritanian Ministers *[Tunis Radio]* 16
Ben Ali Receives Kuwaiti Envoy, Message *[Tunis Radio]* 16

Western Sahara

UN Representative Begins Fact-Finding Tour *[Algiers Radio]* 16

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Intra-Gulf Affairs

GCC Secretary General Bishara on Gulf Affairs *[Vienna DIE PRESSE 18 Jan]* 17

Oman

Sultan Qabus Expresses Support for Cyprus *[Nicosia Radio]* 17

PDRY

London Paper Interviews Interior Minister 14 Jan *[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Jan]]* 17

United Arab Emirates

Algerian Energy Minister Arrives 18 Jan *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 18
Gives Message to Heir Apparent *[WAM]* 18
Departs After 1-Day Visit *[WAKH]* 19
Paper Hails Arab Union's Boycott of U.S. Goods *[WAM]* 19
Minister of State Resigns After 11 Years *[AFP]* 19
Iranian Cargo Ship Breaks Up in Bad Weather *[WAKH]* 19
AL-ITTIHAD Urges Fair Oil Production Quota *[17 Jan]* 19

IRAQ

President Saddam Husayn Chairs Joint Meeting *[INA]* 21
Paris Paper Interviews 'Aziz on Chemical Weapons *[LE FIGARO 13 Jan]* 21
Minister Urges Egypt's Readmission to OAPEC *[INA]* 22
UN Observers Group Commander Arrives 18 Jan *[INA]* 22
Reportage on Visit of YAR Prime Minister 22
Arrives With Delegation *[INA]* 22
Meetts With President *[Baghdad Radio]* 23
Confers With Ramadan *[INA]* 23
Attends Joint Committee Meetings *[Baghdad Radio]* 23
Government To Sell Hotels to Private Sector *[WAKH]* 24
Moves To Encourage Private Industry Implemented *[WAKH]* 24

ISRAEL

Threat to Iraq Biological Weapons Plant Denied *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Sharon Objects to UN Auspices in Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Peres, Kohl Discuss FRG Aid to Libyan Plant *[Jerusalem TV]* 25
Regular Consular Ties Forecast With Bulgaria *[THE JERUSALEM POST 16 Jan]* 25
El Al, Aeroflot Discuss Expanding Aviation Ties *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Growing PLO Prestige Assisting 'Uprising' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 19 Jan]* 26
PLO Seen Increasing Involvement in 'Uprising' *[MA'ARIV 19 Jan]* 26
Egyptian Envoy on Peace Process, Relations *[AL-QUDS 13 Jan]* 27
Cooperation on Pollution Planned With Egypt *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Inner Cabinet To Finish Tabah Discussion 16 Jan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Inner Cabinet Forms Position *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 29
Rabin Briefs Cabinet on Memorials in Territories *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Ministers Criticize Rabin *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30

Tehiya Faction Submits No-Confidence Motion *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 30
Left-Wing Parties Add Motions *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 30
Knesset Defeats Motions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Left-Wing Knesset Members Note Change in PLO *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Shahal Made Alignment Member of Inner Cabinet *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Labor Party Secretary General Bar'am Resigns *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Lahd Releases 11 Shi'ites From Al-Khiyam Prison *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
IDF Completes Project at Lebanese Checkpoints *[Jerualem Radio]* 31
Lebanese Radio To Reach Beirut, Damascus *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
KAKH Declares Intent To Form 'State of Judaea' *[THE NATION 19 Jan]* 31
Courts Mete Out 'Heavy' Terms for Stonethrowing *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories 32
Gaza Workers Not To Return *[HA'ARETZ 18 Jan]* 32
Fatah Recruit Sentenced *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
6 Injured in West Bank *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
4 More Schools Closed *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 33
10 Wounded in Shootout *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
'Terror Squad' Members Found *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Mayor's Family Attacked *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 33
Youth Killed Near Gaza *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
'Collision Course' Seen in Relations With U.S. *['AL HAMISHMAR 18 Jan]* 33
'Democracy' in 'Arafat's PLO Ridiculed *[Jerusalem International]* 34
Aid to Palestinians Not Reaching Territories *[Jerusalem International]* 35
King Husayn's Remarks on Israel Criticized *[Jerusalem International]* 35
Jordanian 'Economic Crisis' Examined *[Jerusalem International]* 35
Jordan Seeks Loan From Gulf Banks *[Jerusalem International]* 36
Jordanian Dinar Exchange Rate Drops in West Bank *[Jerusalem International]* 36
Heroin, Persian Coke, Hashish Seized 36
1988 Consumer Price Index Analyzed *[THE JERUSALEM POST 16 Jan]* 36
Correction on Shamir on Peace Plans 37
Correction on New IDF Appointments 37

JORDAN

Prime Minister Announces Soviet Trade Deal *[JORDAN TIMES 12-13 Jan]* 38
USSR Ambassador on Shamir's Position, Peace Plans *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 13 Jan]* 38
'Nearly 3,000' Students Enrolled in USSR Schools *[JORDAN TIMES 14 Jan]* 38
PETRA, MENA Sign Cooperation Agreement *[AL-DUSTUR 17 Jan]* 39
AL-DUSTUR Hails British, EEC Stands *[15 Jan]* 39

LEBANON

Al-Huss Sends Reply to Arab League Committee *[Beirut Radio]* 40
On 'Readiness To Cooperate' *[VOL]* 40
Talks With Kuwaiti Minister *[Beirut Radio]* 40
Departs for Damascus *[Beirut Radio]* 40
Returns From Damascus 17 Jan *[Beirut Radio]* 40
Kuwaiti Minister Calls 'Awn; Discusses Arab League *[VOL]* 40
Arab League's Farah To Meet With 'Awn, Al-Huss *[RFL]* 41
Ja'ja' Comments on Arab League, Lebanese Issue *[RFL]* 41
Outlines Views on Solution *[RFL]* 41
Al-Tufayli on U.S. 'Decision' To Eliminate Islam *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 42
Reportage on Hizballah-Shams al-Din Meetings 42
Fadlallah on 'Positive' Meeting *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 42
Amal-Hizballah Crisis Discussed 43
Amal, Birri Criticized *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 43
Mediation Efforts 'Deadlocked' *[VOL]* 43
Shams al-Din Reportedly Flees Assassination Attempt *[VOL]* 43
Hizballah Official's Motorcade Ambushed 16 Jan *[VOL]* 44
Hizballah Says Birri Formed Assassination Squads *[RFL]* 44

Hizballah Denies Fadlallah, Al-Tufayli Clashes *[VOL]* 44
Intermittent Amal-Hizballah Clashes in South *[RFL]* 44
Nasirites, Islamic Group Clash in Sidon 12 Jan *[RFL]* 44
4 Wounded in 15 Jan Clash *[VOL]* 44

SYRIA

Agriculture Body Restores Egypt's Membership *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 45
Damascus TV Notes Restoration 45
Khaddam Receives Lebanon's Al-Husayni, Al-Huss *[Damascus Radio]* 45
Receives UN's Goulding *[Damascus TV]* 45
ILO Briefed on Israeli 'Inhuman Practices' *[Damascus Radio]* 45
Golan Arabs Deny Reports on Israeli Citizenship *[SANA]* 46
Arab League Presence in French Seminar Decried *[SANA]* 46
Commentary Views Arab League Efforts in Lebanon *[Damascus Radio]* 46
Banker Reportedly Bribes Khaddam, Talas *[INA]* 47

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

'American Adviser,' 'Extremists' Killed in Konduz *[BAKHTAR]* 48
'Mine' in Briefcase Defused at Kabul Airport *[BAKHTAR]* 48
Protest Notes 187, 188 Submitted to UN Mission *[BAKHTAR]* 48
LE MONDE Interviews Former King Zahir Shah *[Paris 17 Jan]* 48

India

Spokesman on U.S. Sale of F-16's to Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 50
U.S. Congressman Solarz Continues Visit 50
Meets With Gandhi *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Discusses Israel With Rao *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Gandhi Comments on Pakistan, China, Sri Lanka *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Gandhi on Bangladesh Refugees, Burma Situation *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Karnataka Irrigation Minister Asked To Resign *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Heroin, Gold 'From Pakistan' Seized in Rajasthan *[Delhi Radio]* 51

Iran

Khomeyni, Ayatollah Montazeri Meet 19 Jan *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Tehran Radio Cites Bush Remarks on Relations 52
Reportage on Visit of Venezuelan President-Elect 52
Greeted by Khamene'i *[Tehran TV]* 52
Discusses OPEC With Velayati *[IRNA]* 52
Discusses Oil With Khamene'i *[IRNA]* 53
Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[Tehran Radio]* 53
Speaks to Correspondents *[Tehran TV]* 54
Prime Minister Holds Talks With Italian Leaders *[cross-reference]* 54
Trade, Construction Protocol Signed With Italy *[IRNA]* 54
Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Palestinian Issue *[KEYHAN 22 Dec]* 55
Cabinet Reviews Afghanistan, Lebanon Issues *[IRNA]* 59

Pakistan

Bhutto Urges Peaceful Solution to Problems *[Islamabad International]* 59
Paper Hails Outcome of SAARC Summit *[THE MUSLIM 2 Jan]* 60

19 January Middle East and South Asia Review

LD1901132689 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Israel has denied that it threatened to attack an Iraqi factory that manufactures "biological" weapons, Jerusalem radio reported.

Regarding Israel's relations with Britain, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens described recent statements by British Foreign Office Minister of State William Waldegrave as "defamatory and offensive," according to IDF radio. Arens was responding to Waldegrave's comparison between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

As for relations with West Germany, Arens summoned the FRG ambassador to express Israel's "great concern" over the role of German companies in helping establish a chemical weapons plant in Libya and in improving the capability of the Libyan Air Force, Jerusalem radio reported.

In Bonn, Finance Minister Shim'on Peres discussed the Libyan issue with FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl, telling Jerusalem television afterward that Kohl took a "very serious" attitude and promised the FRG will take legal steps to prevent the recurrence of such things.

Sources in East Jerusalem cited by Jerusalem radio stated that six people were wounded during clashes with the IDF in the territories, one of them seriously. In a message to the "uprising heroes" broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat urged Palestinians to further confront "the Zionist occupation army and the herds of murderous, fascist settlers."

PLO-U.S.Dialogue

The U.S. ambassador to Tunisia held "secret" talks with PLO officials recently on the resumption of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, according to a "responsible" Palestinian source cited by Amman's SAWT AL-SHA'B.

Inter-Arab Affairs

At a meeting in Damascus patronized by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development "unanimously" decided to restore Egypt's membership of the organization, Damascus television reported. Syrian Agriculture Minister Muhammad Ghabbash, chairman of the session, hoped the decision would help Egypt free itself from "the chains of the Camp David accords" as soon as possible, Radio Monte Carlo noted.

Maghreb Affairs

Moroccan King Hassan II and Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh discussed the Western Sahara and issues of common interest during an 18 January meeting in Marrakesh, Algiers radio reported. Bessaieh conveyed a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and told reporters after the meeting that Bendjedid has accepted an invitation to visit Morocco.

Gulf Affairs

Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz Hamid al-Qasimi, UAE minister of state for Supreme Council affairs, has resigned, according to an AL-KHALIJ report cited by AFP.

Iran

A protocol on economic cooperation with Italy was signed in Rome at the end of Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi's visit, IRNA reported. The protocol states that Iran will increase its crude oil exports to Italy, and the latter will help build two power stations in Esfahan.

A "letter of understanding" and two documents on economic and scientific-technical cooperation with Poland were signed during Musavi's visit to Warsaw, IRNA noted.

Afghanistan

The Afghan Army killed 320 "extremists," including 1 American and 7 Arab advisers, during recent operations in Konduz Province, BAKHTAR reported. The report noted that this brings to over 500 the number of "extremists" killed this week. BAKHTAR said the operations in Konduz were in retaliation for rocket attacks which killed 7 people and wounded 25.

In a related development, TASS reported that an intruding Pakistani helicopter was destroyed by the Afghan Army after landing foreign military advisers.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Call to 'Uprising' on Israeli Measures

JN1801210789 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1759 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Call by PLO Executive Committeee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, to the "uprising heroes"—read by announcer; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Fain would they extinguish God's light with their mouths, but God will not allow but His light should be perfected, even though the unbelievers may detest. [Koranic verses]

To my brothers and beloved ones in the National Unified Leadership; to my brothers and beloved ones in the popular committees and strike groups; to my brothers and sons at universities, schools, factories, and farms; to my steadfast kinfolk in the steadfast and valiant cities, camps, villages, and towns:

The Israeli leadership has decided to escalate the iron-fist policy against our children, women, and people in an abortive new attempt to undermine the blessed popular uprising.

However, they forgot or pretended to forget that our people have, since the beginning, decided that this popular, blessed revolution will be continued until the occupation is terminated.

In confronting this new onslaught, we have no option but to be patient, persistent, steadfast, and firm. You will confront further the Zionist occupation army and the herds of murderous, fascist settlers. You will be stronger and more determined.

Our faith is stronger than their iron, our jihad is superior to their plotting, and our struggle is more gigantic than their sick dreams. Confront with your steadfastness and faith our occupationist enemy's inevitable impasse.

The only way the enemy can free itself from this impasse is to withdraw its forces from our Palestinian land. Our enemy is bestially continuing the policy of killing, destruction, comprehensive repression, and mass punishment.

My kinfolk and beloved ones! With our splendid struggle and steadfastness, our victorious people are moving toward victory in the year of great return. I greet you and press the hands of each one of you in every city, camp, and village.

The dawn is imminent. Victory is imminent. Our independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital is within a stone's throw. Together and side by side we go until victory.

[Signed] Your brother, Abu 'Ammar

Al-Hasan on Dialogue With U.S., European Role

NC1801161089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1438 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—Khalid al-Hasan, a prominent Palestinian political leader and chairman of the PNC Foreign and Parliamentary Relations Committee, has stressed that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue will be difficult.

He noted that the beginning of the dialogue following President-elect George Bush's assumption of power will determine the Palestinian stand and will give a true picture of the U.S. position toward a just solution to the Middle East issue.

In an interview with the Egyptian weekly AL-MUSAWWAR to be published in its Friday issue, Al-Hasan expressed the hope that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue will be constructive and eventually lead to a practical and effective international conference to achieve peace in the Middle East.

Al-Hasan pointed out that the meetings with the U.S. ambassador in Tunis were of a protocol nature and had nothing to do with dialogue.

He added: Perhaps the goal of those meetings was to declare that a dialogue had become possible. When Bush officially assumes office as president of the United States we will learn what the U.S. intention and goals are with regard to the dialogue. This can be assessed on the basis of the level of the U.S. delegation to the dialogue, as well as on the basis of the questions that the U.S. party will raise.

Al-Hasan emphasized that U.S. President Reagan's term of office has been one of the best eras with regard to the Palestinian people and their issue. He pointed out that one factor distinguishes Bush from his three predecessors; namely, he will assume his post in the White House greatly informed about international politics, including the Middle East issue, as a result of the several posts he has held and the experience he has gained.

Regarding U.S. bias toward Israel, Al-Hasan said: We do not aspire to U.S. bias toward the PLO, but we hope for U.S. neutrality, because it has not yet taken a neutral position. We also hope the United States will adopt a neutral position to show it is serious about the peace process.

On the European role toward the Palestinian issue, Al-Hasan said Europe must play a role exceeding that of a mediator to enable the Palestinian people to regain their rights.

He pointed out that, at a minimum, Europe can pressure Israel, as much as it had pressured the PLO, to give up the organized state terrorism through its occupation, bombardment of camps, and the iron-fist policy against civilians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Concerning the tripartite committee, which is chaired by Spain and comprises France and Greece, and which is involved in a dialogue with Israel, the PLO, and other parties, Al-Hasan said that the tripartite committee may not achieve anything because it talks in an outspoken manner with the PLO but in a bashful way with Israel.

Nayif Hawatimah on Differences Over Government

JN1801181889 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 17 Jan 89 pp 1, 17

[Text] Tunis—Prominent Palestinian leaders have affirmed that the important meeting held in Tunis during the past 4 days with the participation of most of the leaders of the Palestinian factions affiliated with the PLO has not reached a decisive agreement on the formation of a provisional government.

In a statement to AL-BAYAN, DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah said that despite the successful and appropriate circumstances to form a provisional Palestinian government the leadership's recent meeting has not reached a unified result.

Hawatimah noted the emergence of four trends. The first trend believes that the circumstances are ripe to form a government in accordance with the political and organizational bases defined by the PNC in its recent session. He noted that his front belongs to this trend.

The second trend, Hawatimah added, believes that the political circumstances are ripe, but also believes that the majority of the personalities who will form the government should be from inside and outside the occupied territory so that it will be accepted from the Western circles.

Among these personalities are Fayiz Abu Rahmah, Hanna Sinyurah, and Hikmat al-Masri. He affirmed that this trend is not in harmony with the PNC resolutions calling for the formation of the government from the factions affiliated with the organizations [as published] in addition to the personalities committed to them. This is in addition to the fact that the Unified Leadership of the Uprising should nominate the personalities from inside the occupied territory.

The third trend, Nayif Hawatimah said, believes that the present circumstances are not ripe to form the provisional government.

The fourth trend remained silent and refrained from presenting any opinion.

Hawatimah said there are Western European and American pressures to postpone the formation of the provisional government. And if this is impossible, they will try to form it in accordance with their trends that do not look with satisfaction at the national Palestinian unity.

These sides are trying to form the government from a large number of bureaucratic and technocratic personalities at the expense of the basic powers in the revolution and the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising that carried the burdens of struggle for 20 years.

'Time is Ripe' for Government

LD1901102189 Kuwait KUNA in English 0923 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 19 (KUNA)—A prominent Palestinian leader has urged immediate formation of an interim Palestinian government asserting that time is ripe for such a move.

Democratic Front for Liberation of Palestine Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah interviewed by daily AL-ANBA' published here today, stated that "so far 104 countries have supported the admittance of the State of Palestine as member of the United Nations."

Moreover, Hawatimah said, the UN Security Council has granted the Palestinian state the right to fully participate in the council's discussions whenever the PLO, now shouldering the interim government's tasks, demanded such a participation.

"A number of influential states such as France, Japan and some West European countries have indicated that their recognition of the independent State of Palestine is greatly linked to the presence of the provisional Palestinian government," Hawatimah told the paper.

"All these factors necessitate speedy formation of the interim government which must be comprised of factions, forces and personalities strongly committed to the PLO," the Palestinian official affirmed.

He said the recent meeting of Palestinian leaders in Tunis could not agree on the issue "due to varying view points."

He added the government has to be formed on basis and principles set up and declared by the Palestinian National Council during its historic session in Algeria last November.

Hawatimah stated that the interim government should also condone the national unity.

He confirmed that the Palestinian intifadah (uprising) in the occupied territories was the major factor of all recent positive developments pertaining to the Palestinian cause, and said he was opposing any attempt, whatsoever, to stop it.

He said the intifadah is now constituting the main element pushing peace efforts towards an early convocation of an international Mideast conference.

Hawatimah expressed his complete rejection of the so-called peace initiative by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir as well as his opposition to any American political maneuvers.

He called on West European states to recognise the Palestinian independent state and to press on the United States so as to accept the convening of the international Mideast conference which had been supported by the West European countries.

'High Level' Talks Held With USSR in Tunis

LD1901050789 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] In the past 2 days high level official talks took place in the Tunisian capital between representatives of the PLO and the Soviet Union.

The Palestinian side was headed by Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], PLO Executive Committee member, and the Soviet side was headed by Comrade Polyakov, head of the Middle East section of the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

According to the Palestinian news agency WAFA, the official talks between the two sides which took place at the Soviet Embassy in Tunis dealt with the current political situation and the developments in the Palestinian issues and the conditions in the Middle East.

The agency also said that the two Palestinian and Soviet sides agreed to embark on a joint action along the road of realizing permanent and just peace in the area.

PLO Official on Coming Israeli 'Military Blow'

JN1801171989 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 17 Jan 89 pp 1, 17

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, secretary general of the Arab Liberation Front and member of the PLO Executive Committee, has affirmed the Israeli attempt to bypass the popular uprising and propose elections.

He affirmed that the Palestinian leaderships rejected these elections under the occupation with the possibility of holding them under UN supervision. This has been previously announced in Baghdad.

'Abd al-Rahim noted what he described as certain information on the possibility that the Israeli enemy will deal a military blow to the PLO to emerge from its dilemma in which the uprising and the Palestinian peace offensive have placed it.

He affirmed this is not merely an analysis but is based on information presented by friendly international circles. It is to be done under the pretext of striking at the Palestinian military presence in Lebanon.

However, the PLO Executive Committee member said the objective is to strike at the civilian Palestinian presence in this country to export the Lebanese crisis.

Egypt

Delegation Goes to Tabah Area for Talks

NC1901091489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—An Egyptian delegation left for Tabah today to attend the tripartite meeting among Egypt, the United States, and Israel for drawing up the final arrangements to implement the international arbitration ruling on returning Tabah to Egyptian sovereignty. The delegation is led by Dr Nabil al-'Arabi, head of the Egyptian delegation to the UN European headquarters in Geneva.

In a pre-departure statement, Dr al-'Arabi said that the talks, which will begin today and last 2 days, will deal with the remaining issues following the border markers' positioning. These issues include the question of compensation for the Sonnesta Hotel, regulations for entry into and exit from the area, and for the duration and validity of visas.

The Egyptian delegation includes Khayri al-Shamma', chief of the military liaison office; Ibrahim Yusri, director of the Foreign Ministry's legal department; Hasan 'Isa, director of the Foreign Ministry's Israel department; and Ambassador Mustafa 'Abd al-'Aziz, from the office of the deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Commentary on Shamir's 'Procrastination'

JN1401141689 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 12 Jan 89 p 5

[Editorial: "Shamir's Maneuvers Will Not Succeed No Matter How Much They Change"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir would be mistaken if he believes that he can escape from the ring of international pressure which has strongly voiced its support for the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East by resorting to maneuvers and convoluted formulas that seek only to make a breach in the international support being voiced for the Palestinian resolutions.

These resolutions have convinced everyone of the sincerity of the call made by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to prepare the climate for peaceful coexistence between the Palestinians and Israel.

In the beginning, Shamir tried to brandish the idea of holding elections in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip with a view to electing Palestinian elements so that he could hold talks with them on what he called autonomy in accordance with the Israeli concept of the term.

When he discovered that his idea has been exposed as a gimmick which seeks to evade talking to the PLO, which has been recognized by the entire world as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, Shamir began to use new ways of deception that seek to delude world public opinion.

The latest maneuver by the Israeli prime minister is his declaration yesterday of his readiness to hold direct talks with the Arab states under the auspices of the United Nations or that of the two superpowers, provided they do not intefere in the substance of the talks.

This is a strange offer and the strangest part is that it does not refer to the Palestinians despite the fact that they are the party responsible for the key issue—namely, the Palestine question. There is no cause for negotiations with the Arab states except on this question, which will only be resolved when the main party to the conflict is involved in any dialogue about it.

Shamir will continue to stumble in his attempts to invent new methods for evasion and procrastination in a bid to gain time to stop the wheel of peace. However, this time he will not be able to obstruct the march which has begun with great momentum and will not stop.

Butrus Ghali Comments on Arab Ties, Issues

JN1301194089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Interview with Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, by news director Antoine Nawfal in Paris; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] You are a minister who is always on the move. What is the occasion of your visit to Paris?

[Ghali] My visit to Paris has more of an academic than a political nature. I will give a lecture on the OAU at the College de France, and I will also hold contacts with French experts involved in the cultural activities of the Francophone group. My short visit to France is on my way to Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic, where I will chair the joint committee between the Central African Republic and Egypt.

[Nawfal] You are visiting Paris, which is hosting a conference on banning chemical weapons. Do you believe that banning such weapons is workable?

[Ghali] The truth is that this conference has demonstrated that there is a consensus among all the countries in the world, whether East or West bloc countries, on the need to ban the use of such weapons. The attainment of peace dictates as a first step the achievement of disarmament.

[Nawfal] At this conference, Egypt did not deviate from Arab solidarity. What does Arab solidarity mean? Does it mean that the Arabs reserve themselves the right to

possess such weapons so long as nuclear disarmament in the region is not achieved, or does it mean that the Arabs completely dissociate between chemical and nuclear weapons and are ready to give up any chemical weapons?

[Ghali] The Arabs want to link chemical weapons disarmament to nuclear disarmament. If we want to establish peace, we must not be content with tackling only one type of weapon. One must act to carry out disarmament of all types of weapons if we really want to establish peace.

[Nawfal] Is this also Egypt's stand?

[Ghali] This is Egypt's stand, which is linked to the Arab stand. There is without question a close link between the Egyptian and Arab stands. This is one of the most important elements of solidarity and one of the most important elements of the disarmament operation's success

[Nawfal] After Paris the Arab foreign ministers left for Tunis to attend an emergency meeting which tackled three topics: Lebanon, Libya, and the uprising. With respect to Lebanon, a committee was formed. Do you believe that this committee—in which neither Syria nor Iraq participates—can achieve some results?

[Ghali] We support any meeting, any committee that discusses the Lebanese issue. This is so because it is important to mobilize international public opinion around the importance of seeking a settlement for the Lebanese crisis. If scores of committees meet in various parts of the world, we will support their meetings.

[Nawfal] Is the Lebanese issue an international issue?

[Ghali] The Lebanese issue is an Egyptian and an international issue. We believe that we must move to seek a settlement for safeguarding national unity in Lebanon, protecting Lebanon's sovereignty, and safeguarding its regional unity. The Lebanese issue is an Arab, Egyptian, and international issue. We must move to seek a peaceful settlement of this issue.

[Nawfal] With respect to Libya, Egypt has expressed its denunciation. Does this Egyptian denunciation apply only to the downing of the two Libyan planes, or does it also apply to the entire issue, including the issue of the chemical weapons plant?

[Ghali] Egyptian diplomacy believes in the peaceful settlement of international conflicts. It finds no comfort in the recourse to force or in repression for the settlement of international conflicts. Egypt also believes that it is possible to reach a peaceful settlement of this issue. It supports the idea of dialogue and diplomatic contacts as a means for a settlement.

[Nawfal] Do you believe that the uprising should continue until practical political progress is achieved?

[Ghali] This is a political decision to be made by the owners of the uprising and the PLO. We will support any decision. We are with the uprising, the PLO, and the move to end the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

[Nawfal] President Husni Mubarak reiterated his refusal to visit Israel as long as the Israeli stand is not changed. Do you believe that Shamir's recent statements have anything new?

[Ghali] President Mubarak announced that he is ready to visit Israel if this visit will result in a move to find a peaceful settlement of the Palestine question. We call for an international conference and ask Israel to recognize the PLO.

This is a firm stand of Egyptian diplomacy since 1977. We believe that there should be mutual recognition. The PLO has recognized Israel. It is time Israel recognized the PLO. Any move that leads to mutual recognition and a dialogue between the two parties will receive support from Egyptian diplomacy.

[Nawfal] There is a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Paris. Unfortunately, no prominent figures from either side are taking part in this symposium. Do you, in Egypt, support such symposiums, which bind nobody in light of their intermediate level?

[Ghali] We support dialogue, and consequently support symposiums. We support any contact between the PLO and its leaders on one hand and the Israeli leaders on the other. Dialogue, seminars, and direct and indirect contacts would help in reaching mutual recognition even in an indirect way.

[Nawfal] What is Your Excellency's view on the American-Palestinian dialogue? Will it reach the required level, and when will this dialogue really begin?

[Ghali] Undoubtedly, we should wait for the new U.S. Administration to assume power. The American-Palestinian dialogue is one of the objectives of Egyptian diplomacy. We believe that—through this dialogue—we can strengthen the PLO's political position, activate the issue, and reach the international conference, which is considered a framework for the common Arab and international effort to find a peaceful settlement for the Palestine question.

[Nawfal] Everyone is talking about Egypt's return to the Arab ranks. Will this be achieved through return to the Arab League or through Egypt's return to playing its role in Arab meetings and summits?

[Ghali] Egyptian diplomacy is flexible and Egypt is ready to return to the Arab League. It is also ready to return to international conferences. Egyptian diplomacy believes that Egypt's return to the Arab League or international conference will reinforce Arab solidarity.

However, we believe that this return—whether the Arab League's return to Egypt, Egypt's return to the Arab League, or Egypt's return to the international conferences—requires Arab unanimity. If this Arab unanimity is achieved, Egyptian diplomacy will welcome this return.

[Nawfal] Is this return an Arab or Egyptian issue?

[Ghali] In fact, there is no difference between the Egyptian and Arab issues. If we want real Arab solidarity, there will be no difference between Egypt and the Arab world or between the Arab world and Egypt. Arab solidarity requires Egypt's presence and Egypt's existence requires the presence of Arab solidarity.

[Nawfal] Allow me to put the question in a different way. Does Egypt insist on returning to the Arab League?

[Ghali] Egypt does not insist on returning to the Arab League. If Arab unanimity insists on it, Egypt will join this unanimity.

[Nawfal] What information do you have on an Arab summit to resolve this problem with regard to Egypt's return?

[Ghali] Usually, the information about the summit will be on the level of the summit. I have no information on an Arab summit.

[Nawfal] Thank you, Your Excellency.

[Ghali] Thank you.

Soviet Minister of Power Departs 18 Jan

NC1801131389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1251 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—Soviet Minister of Power and Electrification Anatoliy Mayorets left Cairo this afternoon following a 1-week visit. While here he was received by President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, and other Egyptian officials. [passage omitted]

70,000 Reportedly Belong to Islamic Groups

JN1701154289 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 16 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] Reports prepared by some foreign embassies in Cairo have estimated that Islamic groups in Egypt have 70,000 members. Some embassies prepared reports on the activities of the Islamic groups, the number of their members, their influence, and positions. The reports affirm that one in four members leans toward violence. The reports base this on the number of the groups' members who are now in custody.

Strategy Against Islamic Groups Changed

PM1701120989 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Jan 89 p 1

[Mahmud Bakri report: "New Plan of Confrontation With Islamic Groups Youth"]

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that the political leadership recently instructed the security authorities to stop using violence to confront the Islamic groups youths and to reduce, as far as possible, their intensive presence in the areas which were recently the scenes of bloody clashes with these youths, especially 'Ayn Sham and Asyut.

The political leadership's aim is to change its strategy against the Islamic groups, particularly since it has received numerous reports from certain circles confirming that the erroneous methods used by the security forces against the Islamic youths have met with public resentment, leading several popular sectors to condemn the authorities and at the same express sympathy with these youths.

The reports said that dialogue was the only appropriate way of dealing with the young and that a strategy of violence would lead the country to a catastrophe, with grave consequences.

The reports also recommended using the assistance of Muslim scholars and preachers who are highly respected by the public and Islamic groups in holding a series of dialogues which would play a major part in rescuing society from the recent unparalleled wave of influence.

AL-SHA'B has learned that a number of Muslim scholars have recently called on the political leadership to stop its policy of persecuting the Islamic groups' youths as a condition for dialogue.

Security Organs To Study Religious Extremism

JN1801190989 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 17 Jan 89 p 1

[By Majdi Hilmi]

[Text] Officers at the bureau for following up religious extremism at the State Security Intelligence Organ, with the participation of students from the Police Academy, have begun to prepare studies on the phenomenon of religious extremism in Egypt.

The [Interior] Ministry has asked the researchers to concentrate on the means and methods that can be used by the security organs to undermine the groups' movements inside and outside. The Interior Ministry has also asked for the opinion of the Al-Azhar scholars on the issues of dispute with these groups and to prepare responses to them.

The studies will also include a survey on the number of members of the religious groups in Egypt, their whereabouts, and professions. It will also include an understanding of the new organizational structures of these groups and means to infiltrate them.

The Interior Ministry has fixed a date 1 month after beginning the studies as a deadline for concluding them. The recommendations will be referred to Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr to give his opinion and present them to the political leadership.

It is expected that in light of these recommendations, Maj Gen Zaki Badr will ask for more powers to confront these groups. An official security source has stated that the State Security Organ has no precise survey of the number of Islamic groups' members.

Ulema Meet, Rebut Charge of 'Infidelity'

JN1801212389 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 2 Jan 89 p 3

[By Muhammad 'Arafah, Madihah 'Azab, and Fatimah 'Abd al-Basit]

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi has stressed that Egypt is the state of Islam and not of blasphemy as they claim. He added that it was Egypt that had exported the Islamic message to all parts of the world.

His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali has stated that Islam is based on culture and knowledge, not on vociferations and demagoguery, and that Islam is based on the principle of persuasion. His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad al-Tayyib al-Najjar has stated that Islam invites us to work, produce, and be pious—not to accuse the Muslims of being infidels and terrorize citizens.

This came at the meeting the three ulema in the Al-Azhar Mosque yesterday to deliver the statement the ulema had prepared on the phenomenon of the charge of infidelity and the prohibition of wrongdoing through action. Their speeches were as follows:

Shaykh al-Sha'rawi took care of speaking to the audience about the question of faith and the charge of infidelity before reading the statement prepared by the Muslim ulema. He said that faith, the charge of infidelity, the advocation of performing good deeds, and the prohibition of wrongdoing are now being exploited to attain lowly objectives that will never become sublime objectives but will remain in the abyss.

He added that it is impermissible to accuse those who preach that there is no God but Allah and that Muhammad is his prophet of being infidels. He said: I hear quoted the prophet's saying to those who accuse others of infidelity: Did you tear apart his heart to see what is inside it?

Shaykh al-Sha'rawi explained the difference between those who accept God's judgment and those who try to pass judgment in place of God. He gave as an example Satan's and Adam's disobedience. Satan believes that God is one.

He said: There are many Suras in the Koran in this respect, including the following: Then, by the power, I will put them all in the wrong. [Koranic verse] Satan swears in God's name the one and the peerless. But he refused God's order to prostrate himself before Adam. This means that he rejected God's judgment.

Shaykh al-Sha'rawi said: Who claims that Egypt is full of infidels? There are still thousands of minarets, which repeat the call of Allahu Akbar. There are still people who believe in God and faithfully adhere to Him. Egypt is the country that has championed the message of Islam over the past centuries and has preached the message of Islam to all nations and peoples, and even to the country that witnessed the birth of Prophet Muhammad's message. Who can say that Egypt is an infidel nation?

The prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, said about Egypt: It is the nation that is in a state of mobilization until doomsday. Therefore, who are the Muslims? Who are the believers? Can we accuse the Muslims in Egypt of being infidels, knowing that Egypt was the one that exported the banner of Islam to all the peoples?

He said: Let us review history: Who repulsed the Tartars and the Crusaders? It was Egypt. Egypt will continue as such in spite of every rancorous, coveter, exploiter, or hireling of those who are hostile to Islam. Egypt will continue to raise the banner of Islam until doomsday.

In actual fact, these are the tails of colonialism and their helpers, who are still present in the Islamic countries. This is why we should have slowed down to keep the candle, which represents the true call for Islam, burning. The candle will illuminate a limited distance, but we should preserve it so that it will be the guiding light down the path to God or provide us with the fire that we will flare up against the enemies of Islam. It is not easy to let the candle burn out totally.

Keep this candle lit. And know very well that our word cannot spring from our heads unless we fight for our bread.

Shaykh al-Sha'rawi called on the Muslim masses not to heed anyone. Our religion is clear and natural. The rivals of Islam will only be able to overcome religion with the aid of the weak Muslims, not of their own accord. I do not want to govern using Islamic laws, but I want to be governed by them.

His Emminence Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali said that Islam is a religion of clarity and its issues are based on clarity. The Koran decided the issue of polytheism

and the disputes between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam over who has more right to lead the world and be nearer to God. The Almighty God says in the Holy Koran: "The Jews say: 'The Christians have naught to stand upon'; and the Christians say: 'The Jews have naught to stand upon.'" [Koranic verse] Then, the Holy Koran decided this issue with the following: "Produce your proof if ye are truthful." [Koranic verse]

This means that Islam is a religion of clarity and that its call must be established on broad education, intense knowledge, and the ability to convince rivals. It is not a religion based on victory through oppression. It is a religion based on reflection and rationality, not shouting and clamor. The Holy Koran described the Islamic nation's message as a witness of mankind.

Being witnesses of mankind means that we are entrusted with the task of explaining justice and revealing its pillars and characteristics to eliminate all possible excuses not to believe in God. All mankind will then know what Islam and its aims are.

Therefore, I wonder, what we Muslims, numbering almost 1 billion (the world population is 5 billion), have achieved. Have we delivered our just message toward Islam and the Muslims? The answer is no. We have done our call and Islamic message an injustice and have been lax in our belonging to the Islamic nation.

From this podium, I declare that I am not a preacher of the authorities and shaykh in the police force. I act upon inspiration from my conscience to serve my religion and convey my message toward the true Islamic religion. Therefore, I condemn the ignorant callers—those remote from the spirit of Islam and its true call.

His Emminence Dr Muhammad al-Tayyib al-Najjar affirmed in his speech that he is not a religious leader who supports the authorities and that he is one of the faithful callers of Islam.

He affirmed to all present that the youth are the hope of the Muslim nation and that the financial straits that Egypt is going through could be solved through having the youth play their desired role of working and producing to save Egypt from what it is suffering from these days. This is what our religion calls on us to do.

He addressed the youths saying: I ask you to be more pious, just, and fair and not to meet the violence of others with more violence. Nay, you should meet it with wisdom and a good lesson. He hoped that this meeting will be a good beginning for a new age in which production and work will move us away from accusing Muslims and terrorizing secure citizens.

Libya

More on Resolution Urging Boycott of U.S.

LD1801191889 Tripoli JANA in English 1806 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Al-Rabitah, Ay al-Nar [January] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Central Board of the International Confederation of Arab Workers Union (ICAWU) decided to halt providing any services to American transport means in air and marine ports of the Arab homeland for one week starting at 1 Al-Nawar [February].

That came in the final communique issued by the Central Board at the end of its emergency session held at Al-Rabitah medicine plant in Gharyan.

It called on all Arab workers to boycott American goods and materials and stop giving services to U.S. establishments in the Arab homeland.

The board re-affirmed the standing of Arab workers and their support for the Libyan Arab people in its brave confrontation with American threats and assaults, stressing that Arab workers will confront any possible U.S. aggression against Great Jamahiriya—the land of all Arabs.

It also decided that Arab workers all over the Arab homeland should hold an information week to expose anti-Arab nation U.S. policies and U.S. backing to the Zionist enemy and the repeated U.S. assaults against Great Jamahiriya, calling on all Arab workers to stage massive demonstration to protest and condemn U.S. aggression, as being directed at the Arab nation as a whole.

The board saluted the League of Arab Countries and Arab consensus in facing U.S. aggression against the people of Great Jamahiriya urging it to continue.

The Central Board of ICAWU decided to directly call to the American people explaining the hazards of the hostile U.S. Government's policies towards the people of Great Jamahiriyah, the Arab nation and the nations of the world by threatening world security and peace which will inflict grave damages to the American people's interests and its relations with the Arab nation and the world nations.

A press conference was held to explain the resolutions taken by the emergency session in support for the struggle of the people of Great Jamahiriya in facing U.S. imperialist aggression.

The board assigned the General Secretariat with monitoring the development of the U.S. aggression. It called on all Arab workers to back the struggle of Great Jamahiriyah's workers and to endeavour to implement those resolutions.

It called on the Arab masses and the liberation movements to exert more efforts and sacrifices in the battle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction praising the support of the world public opinion and peace and freedom-loving forces to the people of Great Jamahiriyah.

Construction Chief on Al-Rabitah Complex

PM1801153188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jan 89 pp 1-2

[Report on interview with Dr Ihsan Barbuti, "in charge of construction of the Al-Rabitah plant," by Alan George in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] In his first interview with the Arab press Dr Ihsan Barbuti, who is in charge of the construction of the Al-Rabitah plant in Libya, has denied that the plant could have been designed for the production of poison gas.

He said that he puts 80 percent of the blame on the Americans and 20 percent on the Libyans for the big controversy over the Al-Rabitah plant, which Washington said is for the production of chemical weapons despite Tripoli's denial.

Dr Barbuti revealed that Japanese companies played a principal part in building the Al-Rabitah plant, and equipment was imported from West Germany, East Germany, France, Italy, Denmark, and Yugoslavia.

He said that he was certain that the Libyans did not build a plant for poison gas during his stay in Libya and that he was still certain of that.

In this regard he said that although there were strict security measures around the industrial complex, construction charts were everywhere. He said that he once saw a group of Thai workers taking copies of all the factory's charts, which they later took to Thailand. He regarded that incident as proof that the installations were not secret. [passage omitted]

Asked whether the plant is designed for chemical weapons Dr Barbuti said: "Absolutely untrue." [passage omitted]

Answering a question about his link with the building of the plant Dr Barbuti said: The Libyans wanted to build a technological center. The center comprises seven or eight plants. They are currently sending people abroad to train and gain experience. The idea was to set up installations that would enable the Libyans to improve their technological skills inside the country.

He added: In my capacity as a consultant I designed the technological center for the atomic energy secretariat (ministry) that was headed by 'Abd al-Majid Qa'ud in 1984. They told me: You assume consultancy tasks and we hire the contractors. [passage omitted]

[George] Did it not seem strange to you that your client was the atomic energy secretariat?

[Barbuti] No, not at all. In Libya ministries' duties overlap.

[George] And did you not sense that the plant was a military one or designed for something strange?

[Barbuti] There was nothing of this sort. [passage omitted]

[George] What was the total cost of the complex?

[Barbuti] Nearly $250 million for civil engineering. [passage omitted]

[George] And what is your reaction to the claim that the complex is for chemical weapons?

[Barbuti] Absolutely untrue. I blame both sides.

I put 80 percent of the blame on the Americans and 20 percent on the Libyans, because their reaction was passive. [passage omitted]

[George] It seems that the "Pharma" unit (the pharmaceutical plant) was built separately, away from the rest of the complex.

[Barbuti] Yes, completely separate. All we did was supply civil engineering equipment such as steel, timber, tiles, electric equipment, doors, windows, and air conditioning units. In fact the two workforces were completely separate. Originally we began our contract with the Japanese, then I took over, as I said. Our contract included everything except "Pharma," which was a completely separate project.

A question was addressed to Dr Werner Wosher, an Austrian managing Dr Barbuti's project, who attended the interview.

[Answer] There were special security measures around Pharma and no one was allowed to enter it. Even the Thai workers were in a separate place. They had their own manager and engineers and everything else. And we had nothing to do with that project. All we had to do for Pharma was supply them with the equipment they needed, that's all. [passage omitted]

PLO's 'Arafat Greets Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1601194889 Tripoli JANA in English 1800 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January] 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received the following telegram from Yasir 'Arafat:

"The U.S. aggression against Great Jamahiriyah comes within the framework of imperialist-Zionist plots to hit at the Arab steadfastness positions. As I declare the standing of our people and our revolution by the side of sisterly Libya in face of the aggression against it, I call upon the leaders of our Arab nation to establish Arab unity to confront such aggression.

"I avail myself of such opportunity to send to you in the name of the stone children and the uprising masses, our best wishes and I press upon your hands that remains steadfast, patient and brave in the face of the flagrant U.S. aggression."

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives UAE President's Message

LD1901105389 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Jan (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution today received the UAE charge d'affaires to the Great Jamahiriyah, who handed him a written message from Zayid ibn Sultan Shaykh Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE.

In his message Zayid ibn Sultan Shaykh says: We stand, with all our determination and capability, against any hostile policy directed against Arab destiny and presence. We consider U.S. threats against the Jamahiriyah to be threats directed against the Arab nation.

Zayid ibn Sultan Shaykh said further: We share your conviction that the Arab brothers, leaders, and presidents must rally forces around a unified policy, through which we will be able to give prominence to the Arab point of view in confronting the threats and dangers around us, as we are now standing individually, and thus cannot face up to aggression.

He also stressed that there must be a unified Arab will that will protect the dignity of Arabs preserve their independence, and defend their disregarded rights.

Al-Talhi Reviews Stands on Egypt, U.S., PLO

PM1301114489 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Jan 89 p 3

[Interview with Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison, by Qasiyy Salih al-Darwish in Paris; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Darwish] Can we consider your nonopposition to [Egyptian Foreign Minister] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid's attendance at the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Paris the beginning of a new Libyan stance toward Egypt?

[Al-Talhi] I do not believe we can talk about a new stance regarding our relations with fraternal Egypt. Our stance on the Camp David accords is steadfast and has not changed. This is so, despite our belief that Egypt has an important role and distinguished status within the Arab family. We are certain that it will inevitably resume its role within the Arab family in defense of Arab security and existence, which is endangered by the enemy and the Zionist threat.

You probably recall that last March Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi explained this matter. He also pointed out that it should not hamper cooperation between the two fraternal peoples, that borders between them should be opened, and that the citizens of the two countries should enter and leave without visas or difficulties. Furthermore, he expressed our readiness to cooperate, both technically and economically.

[Al-Darwish] What sort of technical and economic cooperation with Egypt?

[Al-Talhi] Cooperation without any conditions. As I have said, Brother Colonel al-Qadhdhafi explained this clearly.

[Al-Darwish] How would you assess the Arab stance toward the U.S. aggression against Libya?

[Al-Talhi] I believe that what the Arab brothers have expressed—whether individually or via the Arab League, that is, through the representatives' council or the general secretariat—is a correct stance motivated by Arab brotherhood. It is based on a full awareness of the nature of and the true motives behind U.S. threats to Libya, namely, that these threats are not only aimed against Libya, but reflect a fixed U.S. attitude toward the Arabs.

As you know, the Arab foreign ministers are to hold an emergency meeting to discuss the U.S. aggression against Libya and its continuous threats of aggression. We are certain that a responsible Arab stand will take shape at that meeting. We in Libya appreciate the pan-Arab stand of our Arab brothers. Brother Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has thanked the brother Arab leaders for these stances.

[Al-Darwish] Do you believe that the idea of dealing a military blow to Libya has now been dropped?

[Al-Talhi] Although U.S. officials have changed their language recently as a result of the international pressure on them, nevertheless their aggressive intent still stands, as their fleets are still off our coastlines. But I believe that the strong Arab position and the international position could force the United States to think hard before repeating the aggression.

[Al-Darwish] In the midst of the escalation there were reports on a secret dialogue between Libya and the United States.

[Al-Talhi] No. No dialogue was held between us and the Americans during that period. But some fraternal and friendly states did make contacts.

[Al-Darwish] What about the George Bush administration: Do you believe relations with it will be better?

[Al-Talhi] Regrettably our experience with the United States does not cause us to be very optimistic. But let us hope that the new administration will follow the method of dialogue to resolve differences, instead of resorting to aggression and threats of aggression.

[Al-Darwish] It has been noted that the Soviet Union's position came later than has previously been the case. Furthermore, it was not as resolute as usual.

[Al-Talhi] I believe that Soviet Foreign Minister Sheverdnadze's statement, in which he said that maps and information which the United States has supplied to us do not prove its claims [as published]. I can confirm that the Soviet Union's position was that of a friend.

[Al-Darwish] It has been noted that the European states' position has been different this time.

[Al-Talhi] Certainly the EC position and its rejection of aggression were clear. Their position regarding a dialogue was also clear. From the very outset we made contacts with them and explained to them the facts of the situation. We drew their attention to the real U.S. motives behind the campaign. I believe that we encountered both understanding and concern from the EC states, especially the Mediterranean states.

[Al-Darwish] Talking of the Mediterranean states, we have heard that French-Libyan relations were supposed to have developed over the past 2 months, and we expected you to make a visit to Paris independently of the conference, but nothing has happened or been announced.

[Al-Talhi] At some stages our relations with France were not as good as could be hoped, first, because of the Chadian problem, and then, the harsh measures which the community took against Libya in 1986. But relations have recently undergone tangible, rapid, and constant improvement. Contacts are continuing between us. And I believe that it is both countries' political will to transcend the past stage and to develop these relations.

[Al-Darwish] With regard to recent development in the Palestinian arena, there has been some ambiguity in the Libyan position, as it seems to be pursuing two different courses.

[Al-Talhi] Our position is clear. It can be summed up very briefly as follows: It emphasizes that the conflict between us and the Zionist enemy is one of existence. This is how it must be looked at and dealt with. Second, the Palestinian cause is the Arabs' central cause. Undoubtedly the Palestinians are the ones who are concerned with it first and foremost, but the Arabs, too, are concerned with it.

We unreservedly support the Palestinian people's struggle—both their military and their political struggle—as well as the uprising, and consider this a duty. These are the basic principles that govern our dealings with our cause, the Palestinian cause. We have honored these principles in full. It was natural for us to be among the first states to declare their recognition of the Palestinian state. Our recognition clearly reflected the fact that we recognize a Palestinian state on the entire territory.

[Al-Darwish] Does this mean that if the state were to be established in the West Bank and Gaza alone your recognition would be considered void?

[Al-Talhi] It certainly would not nullify our recognition, since I believe that struggle will continue.

[Al-Darwish] But what about your support for the organization opposing the proclamation of the state?

[Al-Talhi] We support the Palestinian people's struggle in all its forms. There are differences among the Palestinian groups over their struggle methods. As I said, and as we have always said, we consider the PLO the sole legitimate representative.

[Al-Darwish] You have expressed your satisfaction with Morocco's dialogue with the Polisario. Are you optimistic about an imminent solution to that question?

[Al-Talhi] As you know, the Jamahiriyah—as stated in the statement issued by the People's Office for Foreign Liaison (Foreign Ministry)—welcomed the Polisario delegation's visit to fraternal Morocco and the fact that they were received by King Hasan II. I believe that this is an important step toward putting and end to that problem.

Brother Colonel al-Qadhdhafi personally, and the Jamahiriyah in general, have always worked to bring viewpoints closer and find a solution within the framework of the referendum accepted by the two parties. We believe the positive atmosphere that now prevails in Maghreb relations will influence the handling of the problem.

[Al-Darwish] Will this consequently have a further positive impact on Maghreb relations?

[Al-Talhi] Certainly.

[Al-Darwish] There are rumors of an imminent Maghreb summit. Where and when?

[Al-Talhi] It has been agreed that it be held in the very near future. You know that, as Maghreb delegations, we met on the conference sidelines to discuss the possibility of convening the summit as soon as possible. It has been agreed that the summit will be held in Morocco, and we certainly expect it to take place within the next few weeks. There is talk of it possibily being convened in the third week of this month. But if it is not held by that time, it will not be delayed for too long.

[Al-Darwish] What about the union plan with Algeria? Now that the Algerian house has been put in order, is the issue now being discussed within the framework of a timetable and specific practical steps?

[Al-Talhi] As you know, there were specific steps and a timetable to that end. What I can confirm is that the two countries are determined to implement the plan. Undoubtedly the recent incidents in Algeria have affected the original timetable, but they have not affected the two countries' determination to implement what was agreed.

[Al-Darwish] How does Libya view developments of the situation in Sudan?

[Al-Talhi] All I can say is that our relations with the brothers in Sudan are good, and cooperation has made great progress. We are doing our best to help the brothers in Sudan with what they are facing. The dialogue between us is continuing in order to strengthen cohesion and develop cooperation.

[Al-Darwish] How are relations with Chad?

[Al-Talhi] As you know, following Brother Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's initiative at the 25th OAU session matters developed rapidly and a direct dialogue began between us and the brothers in Chad. It was crowned by the resumption of relations between the two countries. I believe that we have made great headway in restoring trust between the two countries and in maintaining the direct dialogue.

We believe that the both sides' political will is to settle all their disputes through dialogue and negotiations and not to give foreign powers outside the continent any chance of trying to exploit any conditions or dispute. I believe that matters are proceeding in the right direction.

[Al-Darwish] What about Lebanon?

[Al-Talhi] Our position is both clear and open. It reflects concern with Lebanon's unity and territorial integrity.

[Al-Darwish] We have discussed your relations with all Arab regions except Lebanon.

[Al-Talhi] We have excellent relations with all the brothers in the Gulf without exception. Our relations with our brothers in Saudi Arabia are of a special character and our contacts are constant.

Lebanese Communist Leader Hawi Arrives

LD1501105289 Tripoli JANA in English 0843 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January]—George Hawi, the secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, arrived yesterday in Tripoli to take part in the Arab People's Congress.

He made a statement to the correspondent of JANA in which he said 'We came to great Jamahiriyah to reiterate our solidarity with the Libyan Arab people and its revolutionary leadership headed by leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in countering imperialist challenge.

He asserted that America appointed itself as an international policeman who attempts to decide war and peace and the destiny of peoples and intervene in their internal affairs.

We came, he added, to declare our readiness to fight on the side of Great Jamahiriyah and its people in the face of American aggression backed by Western colonial powers who proved by their stance in the Security Council the deep rooted spirit of Western racism against Arabs and Arabism.

He concluded his statement by saying 'We came here to reaffirm, in the name of the Lebanese patriotic forces, our solidarity with Great Jamahiriyah and our readiness to defend the great Al-Fatih Revolution.'

Visiting Algerian Official on U.S. 'Aggression'

LD1601220989 Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January] 16, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—Mr. M. Abada, member of the Standing Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Algerian National Liberation Front and members of the Mediterranean Peace Committee, has left Tripoli after concluding his visit to Great Al-Jamahiriyah.

Commenting to JANA, he has reconfirmed his condemnation of premeditated U.S. aggression against Great Al-Jamahiriyah and its civilized achievements adding that any aggression against Great Al-Jamahiriyah represents an aggression against Algeria.

He has stressed that Algeria, as a leadership and a people, has reffirmed its supportive stand alongside the Libyan Arab people in facing any aggression. We, he continues, as Arabs once united can impose our presence as a strong nation in the face of the forces of evil that attempt to wreck our objectives and principles.

He adds that he has been honoured to meet the leader of revolution and the members of the Mediterranean Peace Committee. We will work as a committee at the directives of the leader of the revolution during this difficult stage.

Morocco

King Meets With Algerian Foreign Minister

Minister Comments on Meeting

LD1801233389 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God protect him, this afternoon at the Throne Hall of the Royal Palace in Marrakech, received Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh, who conveyed a private message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to his brother, His Majesty King Hassan II, may God protect him. The audience granted by His Majesty King Hassan II to the Algerian diplomacy head lasted for about 1 and ½ hours, after which the Algerian foreign minister made the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] You are on a mission to your second country, Morocco, and you were received by His Majesty King Hassan II, may God protect him. Could you talk to us about the significance of this mission?

[Boualem Bessaieh] First of all, I am very happy to be in Morocco on my first visit as minister of foreign affairs. I am happy that this visit comes within the framework of a mission entrusted to me by His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid to convey a message to His Majesty King Hassan II. I have conveyed this message, which is related to issues of common concern between Algeria and brotherly Morocco.

There was a noble invitation addressed to His Excellency the President by His Majesty King Hassan II, which His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid has accepted with pleasure and pride. This visit will be carried out in the future, but I cannot determine its precise date.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali.

Western Sahara Discussed

LD1801234389 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] The foreign minister is in Marrakesh. Mr Boualem Bessaieh has conveyed to King Hassan II of Morocco a message from President Chadli Bendjedid. In a statement to the press, the foreign minister said that he reviewed many issues of common interest with the Moroccan King. Mr Boualem Bessaieh also said that he relayed President Chadli Bendjedid's acceptance of an invitation to visit Morocco to King Hassan II.

The Western Sahara was also discussed. Regarding the peaceful settlement of the Polisario Front-Morocco conflict, the Saharan diplomacy calls on the United States to encourage the peace initiative under way in the region. Africa is not solely responsible for the implementation of this peace plan, the Saharan foreign minister said in Lusaka during the 19th Afro-American conference.

Mr Sidati stressed the necessity to encourage the path of negotiation and dialogue. We hope, the high-ranking Saharan official said, that this peace initiative would achieve an agreement with Morocco in order to hold a referendum which will consecrate the Saharan people's freedom of choice.

Referring to the recent speech by Chester Crocker, Mr Sidati thinks that the United States should support the present efforts for a negotiated solution of the Western Sahara conflict. This is the only acceptable approach for the Saharan foreign minister amid the the diplomatic bargaining which seems to indicate a prospect for the settlement of the conflict between the two parties.

The United States will thus be welcome to strengthen the peace process, which is already on the right path. The high-level meeting between King Hassan II and a Saharan delegation, and the tour of the UN secretary general's representative, Mr Gros Espiell, in the context of the implementation of the UN resolution are two good signs. A third, of course, would be welcome.

Sudan

Nasir Garrison Holds Out Against 4,000 Rebels

LD1901111589 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Jan—The Armed Forces have inflicted heavy losses on the rebels, who are trying to take the town of Nasir since last November, killing 570 rebels and injuring tens of others, said a military source in a statement yesterday.

The source said the Armed Forces are still holding back the rebel troops, although their number is estimated to be 4,000 against only 200 from the army. The source pointed out that the rebel supplies come regularly from the camps of the rebels from within the Ethiopian borders. It pointed out that the army was still sticking to its heroic position, protecting the town.

Rebel Attacks on Relief Trains Reported

EA1901113289 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] The Council of Ministers General Secretariat issued a statement today on the interception by outlaws of the relief trains heading for Bahr al-Ghazal region. The statement says that the efforts made by the state to supply relief items to the citizens of the southern regions are being thwarted and resisted by the outlaws who are trying to prevent the transportation of relief to the citizens.

The statement adds that the relief trains which started out from Bahr al-Arab in the 1st week of January were repeatedly held up by the outlaws who removed a number of rails in the area 225 kms into the journey and also shot at and planted mines along the railway line, killing 1 worker, seriously injuring 2 others, and causing other injuries to 14 more.

The statement says the trains managed to reach Aweil the day before yesterday [16 Jan] with the forces' help and the railways workers' determination to repair the damage quickly.

In their statement the Council of Ministers General Secretariat reaffirms its determination to continue relief and the program of opening up roads and transporting supplies to the citizens of the southern regions, despite the desperate attacks by the outlaws.

Armed Forces Chief Calls for Unity

EA1401184689 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1400 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] The commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces terminated his field meetings for the officers, NCO's, and soldiers of the units in the capital last week, where he met Omdurman military district and Jabal Awliya [personnel]. The commander called during his meeting with the (?military to) cautiously [move] away from anything that damages the unity of the armed forces and destabilizes it.

He emphasized that the military coup is the shortest way towards squashing the unity of the Armed Forces and (?plant heresies) and fragmentation between the armed comrades. He urged all sons of the Armed Forces to do their best for the sake of the security of the Armed Forces and the national unity and said that our essential must be to keep the integrity of the Armed Forces and protect our homeland and defend the Constitution.

The commander said whenever the fire of heresy (?flames) in the Army, the whole nation will fall and emphasized that any coup trial [attempt], whatever its intention and motivation, will destroy this organization that leads the most glorious struggle against rebellion and foreign forces that support him. The commander pleaded the forces to be nonpartial to any of different political and ideological currents and to keep strongly of the affinity and the integrity of the Armed Forces against any interference and penetration.

Ultimately, the commander emphasized that there are many efforts done to enable the Armed Forces doing their duties of defending the homeland and its national unity, and he made sure that the Armed Forces will reckon to peace if the rebels do, otherwise we will fight till we liquidate them and uproot the rebellion for good.

Council of South Chairman on Rebels

EA1501180289 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1300 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Mr Angelo Beda, chairman of the Council of the South, met a delegation of top personalities from the leadership of Anya Nya II, led by the secretary-general Mr Lual Deng, and deliberated a wide spectrum of issues of relevant concern in the political arena.

Most significant of this was the possible representation of Anya Nya II in both the central executive power and the Council of the South, in particular the administration in upper Nile region.

The Anya Nya II boldly expressed willingness to secure military escorts to relief convoys down to the southern region. The delegation again and again emphasised their fundamental differences with the rebels in [words indistinct], citing that Garang's unseriousness towards peace.

To that end they gave the names of politicians in Garang's movement held in detention just because they (?vowed) to support the peace. That of course, accounts for the growing number of dissidents in Garang's movement who stubbornly stick to the unjustified cause of war where they are destroying not only man but also the wealth of the south.

Minister on Hard Currency Smuggling

LD1501184289 Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, Jan. 15, (SUNA)—State Minister for Finance Dr. al-Tig al-Tayyib, accompanied by Director General of Civil Aviation el-Sir Hassan Fadul, today paid an inspection tour to Khartoum airport.

The minister's on-the-spot visit came within the context of a government plan aimed at curbing hard currency smuggling out of the country.

Dr. al-Tayyib, who is the masterminder of the late economic measures applied by the government in a bid to help redress the country's ailing economy, said some administrative and security measures were adopted at Khartoum airport to help tighten surveillance and control over movement of hard currency.

The state minister for finance also said detective devices imported from abroad will soon be introduced in customs work at the airport.

He further added that concerned departments at the Ministries of Interior, Finance, Bank of Sudan and Civil Aviation [are] currently studying and exchanging views on more measures that could increase the state capacity over fighting hard currency smuggling.

Libya Asks Release of SPLA-Held MiG Pilot

EA1501143689 Khartoum SUNA in English 1054 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 15th Jan—The Libyan Government has appealed to [passage indistinct] Libyan pilots captured last year by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), "AL-AYYAM" daily reported today. The paper said Premier Sadiq al-Mahdi has also called on the Ethiopian Government to help release the two pilots.

(?Secretary of) the Libyan Brotherhood Office (Embassy) in Sudan, Jun'ah al-Ghazzani, is said to have conveyed the Libyan request to DUP [Democratic Unionist Party] leader [Muhammad Uthman al-Mirghani] last week, it said. The paper said Al-Mirghani has promised to do his utmost and contact the concerned sides in this regard.

It is to be noted that reports yesterday said the current visit to Ethiopia by Energy Minister Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi is also aiming to ask Ethiopia to help in the release of the two Libyan pilots. [sentence as received]

Tunisia

President Sees Moroccan, Mauritanian Ministers

LD1301181089 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage this morning Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali and discussed with him the strong fraternal relations and close cooperation between the two countries. Mr Filali later declared that the meeting enabled the two sides to exchange views on regional developments. He also indicated that a Maghreb summit would be held soon.

The Moroccan minister described the proceedings' results of the higher committee and its subcommittees, which were formed following the Maghreb summit in Algiers, and the moves which followed it as positive. He added that this would be crowned with a Maghreb summit to be held in Morocco, with a view to reaffirming the goal of building the Greater Maghreb and taking further steps towards this goal, a matter which will soon enable all sides to take joint action in the interest of all the region's peoples.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh, Moroccan Ambassador to Tunisia Abbes Fassi.

Also within the framework of Maghreb moves, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali discussed with Mauritanian Foreign Minister Mohamed Sidna Ould Sidya the excellent bilateral relations as well as the building of the Greater Maghreb. The Mauritanian minister conveyed to President Ben Ali greetings from President Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh and Mauritanian Ambassador to Tunisia Mohamed Lamine Ould Yahia.

Ben Ali Receives Kuwaiti Envoy, Message

LD1401140189 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received this morning at the palace of the Republic in Carthage Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh were present at the meeting.

Following the meeting, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah made the following statement:

[Begin Al-Sabah recording] I was honored indeed by meeting his excellency the president. I have conveyed to him the greetings of his highness the amir and the heir apparent. We talked about relations between Tunisia and Kuwait, which we hope will be an example for the Arab countries. We discussed the issues of our meetings in Paris and in the Arab League and the resolutions made and listened to his excellency's directives. [end recording]

Western Sahara

UN Representative Begins Fact-Finding Tour

LD1301191489 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] In order to push forward the UN peace plan for the Western Sahara, the UN secretary general's special representative has begun his exploratory tour of northwest Africa.

Mr Hector Gros Espiell arrived yesterday in El Uyun, the capital of Western Sahara, on a fact-finding mission in preparation for organizing the self-determination referendum for the Saharan people.

On this tour, the UN envoy is accompanied by Malian Ambassador to the United Nations Issa Diallo [name as heard], the special representative of Moussa Traore, OAU chairman and Malian president. Also accompanying the envoy are Moroccan Ambassador to the United Nations Driss Slaoui and Mr Ahmed Rida Guedira, the political adviser to the Moroccan monarch.

Hector Gros Espiell arrived in El Uyun from Marrakesh, where he was received by King Hassan II and where he talked with him about the position of the Moroccan forces and administration during the period of preparation for the Western Sahara referendum.

From the Saharan territories, the UN envoy will go to Nouakchott. There he will meet Malian President Moussa Traore, the current OAU chairman.

From the Mauritanian capital, Mr Hector Gros Espiell will go to Algeria.

Intra-Gulf Affairs

GCC Secretary General Bishara on Gulf Affairs

AU1801164089 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 18 Jan 89 p 2

[Gerhard Bitzan report: "Gulf Official Bishara in Vienna: 'On the Threshold of Better Times'"]

[Text] Vienna—"I do not think that the Gulf war will start again. However, the cease-fire that is currently in force is not sufficient. We want peace." This was stated by 'Abdullah Yacoub Bishara, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in an interview with DIE PRESSE in Vienna. "The Gulf war was a war that only brought danger and devastation. It was also a war that neither side ultimately won. It was not triggered by regional disputes, but started with revolutionary rhetoric, with the aim of toppling governments." Iran, however, realized that there was no alternative to a cease-fire. The only alternative would have been isolation and destruction.

The GCC is a union of six Gulf states, including Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman. The GCC, which was founded in 1981, is a very influential political and economic regional community, similar to the EC. According to Secretary General Bishara, it sees itself as the protector of the political and social status quo.

Bishara stressed that, despite the cease-fire, the Gulf states are not sitting back, but "working hard to overcome the difficulties in negotiations between the parties in the Gulf War."

In Bishara's view, the danger of the export of the Islamic revolution has been banished. This has been brought about through efforts by the international community and the "resistance of regional forces." "Iran resorted to terrorism and made attempts to destabilize the region, but it failed." Iran is becoming a normal country again, which may still have an internal revolution. "Today we are on the threshold of better times."

The GCC secretary general paid tribute to relations with Austria, but pointed out that there is still room for improvement in the sphere of trade. "As far as political relations are concerned, I am very satisfied." He also considers a joint commission conceivable, on the model of bilateral commissions which the GCC has established with several states and the EC. "We might set up a similar commission with Austria."

Bishara gave a lecture at the Hammer Purgstall Oriental Society on the occasion of the organization's 30th anniversary. Foreign Minister Mock was also present and gave a cordial welcome to the visitor from Kuwait.

The lecture of the GCC secretary general was attended by the Iranian ambassador who showed great interest.

Oman

Sultan Qabus Expresses Support for Cyprus

NC1801184489 Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek 1730 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Sultan Sa'id ibn Qabus of Oman reaffirmed his country's support for the unity of Cyprus, and underlined that divisive or partitionist acts at the expense of any country are unacceptable. He also stressed his country's support for the search for a just solution to the Cyprus issue which will guarantee the harmonious coexistence of the Greek and Turkish Cypriots, irrespective of national oigins. He added that he will advise the Turkish side on this, in the same spirit.

Sultan Qabus made his statement after Alexandros Siambos, the Cypriot ambassador to Oman, presented his credentials. The Omani foreign minister also expressed his country's support for Cyprus after Siambos briefed him on the latest Cyprus developments.

PDRY

London Paper Interviews Interior Minister 14 Jan

PM1801101189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Jan 89 p 4

[Interview with Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, deputy prime minister and interior minister, by Zaki Musa; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Musa] Probably the issue of citizens' movement between the two parts of Yemen is the most notable subject that comes to any Arab citizen's mind whenever Yemen is mentioned. How do you view the step several months after implementation?

[Al-Siyayli] It is a positive step reflecting the two leaderships' desire to unite the two parts of Yemen as a step toward the Arab nation's unity. In our view, after the bitter experience with unity in the Arab region, we can only begin with serious measures, foremost among which is maintaining direct contacts between the peoples of the two parts within the framework of Yemeni unity, which we hope will be generalized among all Arab countries. This is because it is embarrassing for any Arab to go through long procedures to obtain an entry visa to visit a brother in another fraternal Arab country. On this basis, we feel that substantial success has been achieved and daily direct contacts are continuing between the peoples of the two parts. [passage omitted]

[Musa] You said that some groups have tried to cross the borders and have been put on trial for doing so. When did the latest attempt take place? How many people were involved?

[Al-Siyayli] The latest attempt occurred nearly a year ago. They were tried and lawful sentences were passed on them. You can contact the Supreme Court if you want to know the results and rulings.

[Musa] Were they followers of former President 'Ali Nasir?

[Al-Siyayli] They, of course, admitted that and confessed that they were planning to use explosives in sabotage acts. In practice, no one has succeeded since then in embarking on any sabotage activities against us. Most of the groups that come are easily arrested.

[Musa] Is there an agreement with official authorities in the North not to allow opposition groups to carry out any hostile activities?

[Al-Siyayli] Our brothers in the North stress that they have not permitted any hostile activities against us. So we do not need any written agreements between the two parts on that matter. In our opinion, they have emphasized this point. At the same time, if anyone tries to cross our borders, we are ready. [passage omitted]

[Musa] A general amnesty was issued some time ago. It was preceded by another amnesty a year ago. Is there any intention of making another similar decision, and how many people have responded to the recent general amnesty?

[Al-Siyayli] A general amnesty was issued covering a specific period of time. A final extension was issued, and anyone wanting to return—apart from those tried and sentenced, of whom there are 48 in total—has the right to do so. [passage omitted]

[Musa] People expected Chairman al-'Attas' recent visit to Muscat to bring benefits and influence relations between the PDRY and Oman.

[Al-Siyayli] Regarding your question, the visits between the two countries were crowned by the brother chairman's visit. Visits are likely to continue. An invitation was sent to Sultan Qabus to visit the PDRY. The sultan accepted it and promised to set a date for the visit. We believe that the results were positive and we have made progress on the disputed issues. [passage omitted]

[Musa] What are the points of difference that still stand?

[Al-Siyayli] There are none except a minor point regarding the borders issue. It does not pose any problem and can be resolved by both sides in the future. [passage omitted]

[Musa] Can you specify the number of victims in the 13 January incidents?

[Al-Siyayli] About 4,000 people from both sides.

[Musa] Four thousand?

[Al-Siyayli] Yes; from both sides.

[Musa] Reports said that 13,000 were killed during the incidents.

[Al-Siyayli] Regrettably, the problem is that foreign media sources are inaccurate. Reports on this are available in the Red Cross and many other organizations. There is no reason to hide the true figure. How would that benefit us? [passage omitted].

[Musa] What about the problem of 'Ali Nasir's son?

[Al-Siyayli] The Ethiopians said that, because he had turned to their embassy. They were responsible for him both morally and legally. We did not differ with them on that point. Later we informed them that, under the general amnesty decision and since no rulings had been passed against a number of those taking refuge in the embassy, we agreed to their request to allow him to leave.

[Musa] Did they all leave?

[Al-Siyayli] Yes, they did, but two of those sentenced remained at the embassy. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Algerian Energy Minister Arrives 18 Jan

JN1801100589 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Sadek Boussena, Algerian Minister of Energy, chemical, and Petrochemical Industries arrived in the country today on a visit to the UAE. He was received by Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of Petroleum and National Resources; and Mohamed Dayes, the Algerian ambassader to the UAE.

The Algerian minister said he is carrying a message for His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from his brother, the Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, on brotherly bilateral relations.

Gives Message to Heir Apparent

JN1801185189 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1802 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Al-Jurf, 18 Jan (WAM)—His Highness President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a message from Algerian President Chadli Benjedid. His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid Al Nuhayyan, heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces, received the message during his reception of Algerian Minister of Energy Sadek Boussena at Al-Jurf Palace this evening.

They discussed bilateral relations and exchanged views on the current Arab situation, issues of mutual interest, and developments in the position of the oil markets. The meeting was attended by Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and national resources and Algerian Ambassador to the UAE Mohamed Dayes.

Departs After 1-Day Visit

JN1901103889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0750 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Jan (WAKH)—Algerian Energy Minister Sadek Boussena left Abu Dhabi this morning following a 1-day visit to the UAE during which he conveyed a message to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid dealing with bilateral relations and the current Arab issues.

In a predeparture statement, the Algerian minister praised the results of his talks with senior UAE officials and said they will help promote and bolster bilateral relations.

Paper Hails Arab Union's Boycott of U.S. Goods

JN1901084689 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0645 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Jan (WAM)—The newspaper AL-WAHDAH has welcomed the decision made by the Central Council of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions [ICATU] to boycott U.S. products and goods and to withhold any assistance to U.S. institutions in the Arab countries.

In an editorial today, the paper described the decision as "a sound decision which should be fully implemented because submissiveness and leniency generate only deadly weakness and coercion. It is the strong who are valued and respected."

Referring to the U.S. aggression against Libya in 1986, the paper said that if the Arab nation had made such a decision, America would not have dared to down the two Libyan aircraft. It also referred to the October war during which the Arabs acted in solidarity and asked: Why do Arab countries not adopt a similar stand?

Concluding, the paper hoped the ICATU decision will be comprehensively implemented because it is a decision which might affect the U.S. economy and lead to moderation in Washington's policy toward the Middle East.

Minister of State Resigns After 11 Years

NC1901084489 Paris AFP in English 0731 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 19 (AFP)—A United Arab Emirates (UAE) minister of state, Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Humayd al-Qasimi, has resigned from the post he held for 11 years, AL-KHALIJ newspaper reported Thursday.

The shaykh, whose family are rulers of Al-Shariqah, took office as minister of state for Supreme Council Affairs in 1977.

The Supreme Council, the UAE's highest ruling body, comprises rulers of the seven emirates—Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Al-Shariqah, Ra's al-Khaymah, 'Ajman, al-Fujayrah and Umm al-Qaywayn. The Al-Shariqah based daily gave no reason for the decision but said Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz's resignation was accepted.

Iranian Cargo Ship Breaks Up in Bad Weather

JN1901095089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Dubayy, 19 Jan (WAKH)—An Iranian cargo ship wrecked near Al-Hurriyah port in Dubai, the UAE, yesterday due to bad weather conditions. The ship left its course, split in half, and broke into pieces which later washed ashore.

The port's sources said eight crewmen were rescued and are in good health. The search continues for three others who make up the rest of the crew. Local newspapers cited the rescued sailors. They said the ship was sailing from the Iranian Deyyer port to Dubai with a 5-tonne cargo of foodstuffs. The crew was unable to control the ship when weather conditions intensified, and the ship soon split into two parts. The crewmen were rescued by helicopters.

AL-ITTIHAD Urges Fair Oil Production Quota

JN1801164289 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 17 Jan 89 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid Al Nuhayyan, UAE heir apparent, deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces, and chairman of the Supreme Petroleum Council, has affirmed the crux of the UAE's petoleum policy, whose foundations were laid and directions determined years ago by the leader, His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president.

In its crux, this policy has taken into account the UAE's international role in achieving stability in international oil markets. At the same time, it has taken into account and sought to achieve the homeland's development ambitions by using the wealth of oil that God has granted it.

Therefore, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah's statements yesterday during his meeting with His Excellency Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Perez, constituted a confirmation and an explanation of this policy. His highness sought to affirm the UAE's full cooperation and coordination with OPEC to achieve stability in the oil market and achieve balance for all sides. For this purpose, and for a long time, the UAE has made many great sacrifices. Suffice it to say that for many years, it used to accept a quota less than its confirmed huge oil reserves and its production capability, which has reached 4 million barrels aday.

Therefore, the UAE has the right to compensation for these major sacrifices, which it made for OPEC's sake. This can only be done by responding to its request for a fair production quota in OPEC. Support for this request is a support for the right of the UAE people to employ their fortune in building their country and compensating for the many years of deprivation it suffered. Hence, the UAE appreciates the support shown by the Venezuelan president-elect to its just request.

Also, the UAE's support for the Venezuelan president-elect's idea to hold a summit of OPEC leaders next year, on the 30th anniversary of the formation of the organization, is a confirmation of its policy to support the organization's political and economic role. This support also means an understanding that it is about time for OPEC to regain its leading and influential role in the international oil market to support its peoples' rights and ambitions for a decent life.

President Saddam Husayn Chairs Joint Meeting

JN1801110889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1038 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—This morning, President Saddam Husayn chaired a joint meeting of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the RCC, and the Council of Ministers. Ideas, opinions, and suggestions in the field of Arab cooperation were reviewed.

Paris Paper Interviews 'Aziz on Chemical Weapons

PM1801152089 Paris LE FIGARO in French 13 Jan 89 p 4

[Interview with Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz by Claude Lorieux—date and place not given]

[Text] [Lorieux] The Arab foreign ministers drew a parallel between nuclear weapons, which Israel allegedly possesses, and chemical weapons which you, among others, possess. It seems to be rather a specious parallel: Nuclear weapons are deterrent whereas chemical weapons have never prevented war.

['Aziz] The strategic conditions prevailing in Europe cannot be applied to our region. The Eastern and Western countries have achieved a balance and war has become virtually impossible. The two sides have therefore shown their readiness to take disarmament measures. The situation in my region bears no resemblance to that. The causes of insecurity have not yet been eliminated. Neither Israel nor Iran has shown sufficient desire to live peacefully with its neighbors. It is therefore unrealistic to ask the Near East states to abandon a particular type of weapon until there is a real prospect of peace. But I do not say that we are opposed to the Paris conference's objectives. We agree with them. We just hope that parallel disarmament efforts will be developed in both spheres—nuclear and chemical weapons.

[Lorieux] Did the United States distract attention from Iraq's use of chemical weapons and make things easier for you at the Paris conference by downing two Libyan planes and denouncing the Al-Rabitah chemicals factory?

['Aziz] This is not my intention! Chemical weapons have been used several times over recent decades. If you want to be objective, you must examine the whole problem and not merely look at one case. Moreover, if somebody wanted to criticize Iraq, we had the means to defend ourselves. For 8 years, Iraq has waged a courageous war against the threat which Khomeyni's fanatical expansionism posed to the people in the region and the world. What would have happened if Khomeyni had defeated Iraq? We feel no guilt about that period. We are proud of having defended our country. Moreover, even when we were fighting courageously with all the means at our disposal, we still sought peace. For instance, we accepted all the UN resolutions on a settlement. Iran did not.

Strong and Fraternal Relations

[Lorieux] How would you react if an international body asked to inspect your chemical factories?

['Aziz] If the international community decided to set up a body comparable to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna to prevent the proliferation of chemical weapons, Iraq, which is a responsible member of the international community, would behave like other responsible countries. After all, the International Atomic Energy Agency inspected our nuclear center in Tammuz before it was destroyed by the Israelis.

[Lorieux] Since the cease-fire, Iran has been waging a new diplomatic offensive toward the Gulf countries. Would this not be an opportunity for Baghdad to make a gesture toward them by finally reaching agreement on the border between Iraq and Kuwait?

['Aziz] There can be no comparison between our relations and Iran's relations with those countries. Our relations have been strong and fraternal. They supported Iraq during the war. Regarding borders, we are having discussions with Kuwait. They are taking place in a fraternal and constructive atmosphere. There will be a settlement, but I cannot say when.

[Lorieux] Before the Gulf war, Iraq had a reputation as a "hardline" or even "extremist" country in the Israeli-Arab conflict. You are now in the moderate camp alongside Egypt, Jordan, and 'Arafat's PLO.

['Aziz] I welcome the fact that our position is now better understood than in the past. Our main goal is peace. We need it because it is vital to our development and progress. Thus, we support all initiatives with that objective. For instance, we support 'Arafat and his efforts to promote an independent Palestinian state.

[Lorieux] In that connection, does Iraq accept Resolution 242 which 'Arafat has finally just recently accepted?

['Aziz] Our policy was to follow the PLO on this subject. After all, it is their business. In light of the fact that the PLO was prepared to accept 242, we supported it.

[Lorieux] In Lebanon, you are supplying arms to the Christian militia. What is your strategy?

['Aziz] We have always said that the Syrians should leave Lebanon. We firmly believe that if the Lebanese were left alone, they could achieve reconciliation. We are therefore helping the forces which are fighting Syrian hegemony. We want to prevent Syria from taking complete control of Lebanon by force or intimidation. We have no special interests in Lebanon. But the situation prevailing there threatens our security. Do not forget that there are several religions and sects in Iraq. We are therefore

opposed to any development which strengthens divisions for religious reasons. We therefore see a threat in the present situation in Lebanon (regional division on a religious basis—LE FIGARO editor's note).

[Lorieux] Official relations between France and Iraq are good. The engineers working in Iraq like your people. And yet Iraq does not have a good image in France and Europe.

['Aziz] I am very worried about how the European press describes Iraq because that description is not consistent with reality. But I can tell you that my country—a small country of 15 million inhabitants—has gone through a terrible trial with Iran—a country with more than 50 million inhabitants, with hundreds of thousands of fanatical men attacking you. We did not have the time, men, or money to worry about public relations. That time has come for us. As far as foreigners are concerned, they must come without prejudice and see what Iraq is like.

Minister Urges Egypt's Readmission to OAPEC

JN1501144289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA)—Iraq has called upon the OAPEC Ministerial Council to hold an emergency meeting to discuss the issue of restoring Egypt's membership in OAPEC and its subsidiary Arab firms and institutions.

This came in a letter sent by Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi to Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, in his capacity as current chairman of the OAPEC Ministerial Council for 1989.

The OAPEC Ministerial Council decided in 1979 to suspend Egypt's membership in the organization and its subsidiary firms in implementation of the Baghdad summit resolutions issued in the wake of the signing of the Camp David accords.

This Iraqi initiative is being taken in light of the circumstances and developments being witnessed in the Arab arena to honor the pan-Arab stands of the Arab Republic of Egypt with the aim of enhancing joint Arab action.

UN Observers Group Commander Arrives 18 Jan

JN1901093289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jan (INA)—Yuogoslav General Slavko Jovic, commander of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observers Group [UNIIMOG] formed in implementation of the Security Council Resolution No 598, arrived in Baghdad last night. The visit comes within his shuttle visits between Baghdad and Tehran to supervise the work of UNIIMOG along the border between the two countries.

Reportage on Visit of YAR Prime Minister

Arrives With Delegation

JN1801144789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, YAR prime minister and member of the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress, and his accompanying delegation arrived here today on a visit of several days.

'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani and his accompanying delegation were welcomed by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Hasan 'Ali, RCC member; cabinet ministers; the Iraqi ambassador to the YAR; the YAR ambassador to Iraq; and staff of the YAR Embassy in Baghdad.

In a statement to INA, 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani voiced great happiness over visiting Baghdad, the land of Arab steadfastness and heroism and the capital of peace. He said that this visit seeks to enhance and bolster bilateral relations to serve the common interests of the two countries and help realize pan-Arab ambitions and aspirations of the Arab nation. He added that the relationship between the two countries is firm and distinguished, thanks to the efforts being made by the two political leaderships in both Iraq and the YAR under the auspices and patronage of Presidents Saddam Husayn and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who have always been eager to develop this relationship in various spheres in the service of the higher pan-Arab interests of the Arab nation.

'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani highly valued the victory of the Iraqi people and their valiant steadfastness in their defense of Arab land and efforts to safeguard the pan-Arab sovereignty of our Arab nation. He added: We highly value the efforts of Iraq to bring about durable peace through direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran under UN auspices to help establish peace in the region.

The YAR prime minister pointed out that he will discuss with Iraqi officials during the visit everything to increase cooperation between the two fraternal states and realize the development and civilizational aspirations of the two countries and those of their wise leaderships. He said he will also exchange views with Iraqi officials on all Arab issues in order to adopt a unified stand on these issues, foremost among which is the Arabs' central issue—namely, Palestine—in light of the latest developments represented by the escalation of the popular revolt being staged in the occupied Arab territories in the face of the Zionist occupation; the proclamation of the Palestinian state; and the international community's recognition of that state.

The delegation accompanying the YAR prime minister comprises Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister and development minister; Ahmad al-Muhanni, minister of petroleum and mineral wealth; Hasan

Ahmad al-Lawzi; minister of information and culture; Salih al-Jamali, adviser to the prime minister; Muhammad Sa'id Thafir, director of the prime minister's office; 'Adil Khurshid, under secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Wealth; and a number of officials.

'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani will head his country's side to the meetings of the joint Iraqi-YAR committee, which will begin its works later today.

Meetts With President

JN1801175989 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, YAR prime minister; and Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, YAR deputy prime minister and development minister.

'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani expressed the gratitude of the YAR—president, government, and people—for the honorable treatment accorded on all official and popular Iraqi levels to the YAR's Al-'Urubah Brigade, which participated in the glorious Al-Qadisiyah battle of Saddam in defense of the eastern flank of the Arab nation, and for the fraternal sentiments voiced by the Iraqis while seeing off their brethren the heroes of fraternal YAR. He affirmed that these sentiments are an expression of the genuine fraternal pan-Arab ties stemming from the belief of the Iraqis in the great principles that they have defended honorably and honestly.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn highly valued the courageous and genuine stand taken by the sons of fraternal YAR—the sons who have been generous in their gifts for the Arab nation, sacrificing their lives and blood for the sake of defending the Arab nation's dignity and pride.

They also discussed the strong fraternal relations binding the two fraternal states and issues of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; the Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa; and the YAR ambassador in Baghdad.

Confers With Ramadan

JN1801193789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, has received YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani.

Taha Yasin Ramadan and 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani voiced their deep satisfaction over the developed level of relations binding their two countries—relations that are proceeding with the support and guidance of Presidents Saddam Husayn and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

During the meeting, the formation of an Iraqi-YAR higher committee designed to develop and expand bilateral relations in all spheres was announced.

Attended by Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, YAR deputy prime minister and development minister; the Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa; and the YAR ambassador in Baghdad, the meeting discussed bilateral relations and affirmed that joint efforts will continue to develop and expand these relations in various spheres.

Attends Joint Committee Meetings

JN1801203989 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] The meetings of the first session of the Joint Iraqi-YAR Committee for Economic, Trade, and Technical Cooperation began this evening. The Iraqi side to the meetings was headed by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; while the YAR side was led by YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani.

Taha Yasin Ramadan affirmed that Iraqi-YAR relations are a source of pride for the two fraternal states and the Arab nation. He paid tribute to the pan-Arab stand of the Yemeni brothers and to their actual participation in the glorious Al-Qadisiyah battle of Saddam in defense of Arab territory and said: The exemplary relations binding the two fraternal states will witness development in all spheres by upgrading the level of the two states' joint ministerial committee to the level of a higher committee in implementation of instructions issued in this regard by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and his brother, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, to bring about a comprehensive integration between the two countries.

'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani voiced the YAR people's and government's appreciation for and pride in His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn's honoring the Al-'Urubah Brigade, which had the honor of participating in the glorious Al-Qadisiyah battle of Saddam. He also praised the fraternal sendoff ceremony accorded to the brigade's combatants by the Iraqis. He described Iraqi-YAR relations as distinguished and exemplary and affirmed that officials in the two countries will redouble their efforts to rise to the level dictated by the duties of the higher committee in a manner that will help realize the common objectives of the two fraternal states.

The two sides agreed to hold bilateral meetings between ministers and concerned technicians to draw up working papers on formulas of cooperation between the two countries.

The Iraqi side to the meetings comprised Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, Housing and Reconstruction Minister Tahir Muhammad Hassun, the Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa, and a number of officials.

The YAR side to the meetings comprised Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, development minister, and chairman of the Central Planning Organ; Eng Ahmad 'Ali al-Muhanni, minister of petroleum and mineral wealth; Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi; minister of information and culture; the YAR ambassador in Baghdad; and a number of officials.

Government To Sell Hotels to Private Sector

JN1501205289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1446 GMT 15 Jan 89

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 15 Jan (WAKH)—It has been announced here that a new company with a capital of 1 million dinars, the equivalent of $150 million, was established to purchase the premises and buildings of the Sheraton Hotel in Baghdad. The announcement came as part of the Iraqi authorities' decision to dissolve the General Establishment of Tourism and sell its installations to the private sector.

A responsible source in the committee, which supervises the sale of the tourist installations, told WAKH that the decision will cover all the large hotels, including the Palestine Hotel, Meridien Hotel, Melia Mansur Hotel, and Novotel [as received] Hotel. It also covers the touristic city of Al-Habbaniyah, which is 70 km west of Baghdad. It had been announced that a company with a capital of 20 million dinars would be established to purchase the premises and buildings of the Baghdad Hotel as part of a plan to sell the hotels.

The source also said that the share is worth only 1 dinar, adding that any Arab in his country or in any other Arab country is entitled, like any Iraqi citizen, to buy shares. [passage omitted] It has been also decided that the sale of the large tourist hotels through the establishment of new companies will be announced later.

The state has decided to contribute 49 percent of the capital of the Sheraton Hotel company; the private sector will contribute 51 percent. The state will not participate in the company's board of directors. This measure is in line with the general trend in Iraq to activate the private sector's role in all the post-war industrial and trade activities. Last year, the state announced the sale of 70 large industrial factories to the private sector and the sale of many agricultural and services projects.

Moves To Encourage Private Industry Implemented

JN1601150989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1345 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (WAKH)—The private industrial sector in Iraq last year was granted licenses to import raw materials worth 213.501 million Iraqi dinars or $661.853 million.

The Iraqi weekly newspaper AL-ITTIHAD today cited an Iraqi official as saying that these licenses were distributed among the chemical, food, textile, mineral, and construction industries. The licenses granted to the private industrial sector in the past year are considered very valuable in comparison to previous years when Iraq was fighting its 8-year war with Iran.

The official, Tariq Isma'il Ahmad, director general of organization and aid, added that the licenses are worth 155.5 million Iraqi dinars through hard currency transfers and 57.906 million Iraqi dinars without foreign transfers. He added that the import licenses granted to the mixed sector are worth 70.443 million Iraqi dinars.

These amounts fall within the central measures that the Iraqi Government began to implement last year to encourage the private sector to develop business in the various industrial fields in place of the various government projects.

At the forefront of these facilities and encouragement measures were the 10-year tax exemption for new industrial projects; an increase on the imposed pricing on production; and the opening of markets to the private sector without competition from the socialist sector, whose role has obviously started to diminish since many factories have been sold to the private sector.

It is known that, since the beginning of last year, Iraq has allowed all Iraqi and resident Palestinian citizens to import various products from abroad without having to exchange hard currency. As a result, most products are currently available on the Iraqi market.

The Iraqi official said that last year his directorate licensed 253 new industrial projects with investments amounting to 44.278 million Iraqi dinars or $142 million. The new projects are distributed among the food, textile, wood, paper, chemical, constructional, and mineral industries.

Many Arab investors and businessmen at the end of last year and on the sidelines of the Baghdad international fair held contacts with Iraqi officials on implementing new projects in Iraq in the postwar period in light of the new facilities and regulations issued by the government last year to encourage Arab capital to work inside Iraq.

Threat to Iraq Biological Weapons Plant Denied

TA1801191589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Israel has denied that it threatened to strike at a plant manufacturing biological weapons, which was built near Baghdad in Iraq.

Sharon Objects to UN Auspices in Talks

TA1801180189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] In their meeting this afternoon, the Likud ministers discussed, among other things, the prime minister's remarks regarding the possibility that the United Nations might summon the parties to the Middle East conflict to negotiations.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Minister Ari'el Sharon objected to any change in Israel's position, saying that the participation of the United Nations in the peace process would be a serious mistake. He warned that this might lead to the positioning of UN forces in the territories, allowing terror to continue to strike at Israel under the cover of the United Nations while we would be unable to retaliate.

The prime minister said that he has not changed his positions and that he firmly objects to a withdrawal from the territories, the establishment of a Palestinian state, and to negotiations with the PLO. Mr Shamir pointed out that in his meetings with U.S. congressmen he was appraised of their concern with what has been happening in the territories.

The issue of Tabah was also discussed in the meeting. The Likud ministers will continue the political debate in their next session.

Peres, Kohl Discuss FRG Aid to Libyan Plant

TA1801202989 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, is on an official visit to the FRG. A short while ago he ended his meeting with Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Bonn against the backdrop of increasing reports of German companies' involvement in the setting up of chemical weapon plants, not only in Libya, but also in Iraq and Syria. Our correspondent in Bonn Yig'al Rom dispatched this report a few minutes ago:

[Begin videorecording] [Rom] The vice prime minister met with Chancellor Kohl as the Libyan affair assumed the dimensions of a political scandal. Last night the local television networks aired irrefutable evidence proving the role of FRG companies in supplying raw materials for the chemical weapons plant.

Although this is a private visit, Mr Peres was accorded state honors. He is staying in the official residence for official guests. The press seized the opportunity to expose another angle of the Libyan affair, but despite attempts to question Chancellor Kohl, he was not prepared to address the issue at all. He did not even mention the matter during his Bundestag address.

In his meeting with Mr Peres, however, he anticipated the question and immediately started talking about it.

[Peres] In fact, as soon as I arrived in the Chancellor's chambers he started talking about the Libyan issue, even before I mentioned it. He gave me a very detailed run-down on the development of things, what has happened, and what measures he has taken. I can say that I encountered a very serious attitude on his part on the gravity of the issue. He promised that all the necessary measures warranted in light of past events will be taken. He said that furthermore the FRG will take legal steps to prevent the recurrence of such things in the future. Both on the national and international levels, Kohl seemed very determined. I, of course, pointed out the gravity of the matter.

[Rom] The meeting between Peres and Kohl was also attended by the Israeli ambassador to Bonn and the chancellor's political adviser. [end recording]

Regular Consular Ties Forecast With Bulgaria

TA1601134089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Jan 89 p 1

[Report by Judy Maltz]

[Text] Bulgaria intends to set up regular consular ties with Israel shortly, a visiting Bulgarian economic delegation told Chambers of Commerce President Dani Gillerman yesterday.

In order to strengthen commercial ties between the two countries, the Bulgarians said they planned to begin operating regular shipping lines to Israel. They said they would also hold talks shortly on the possibility of operating direct flights between Sofia and Tel Aviv.

The delegation, headed by Moritz Asa [spelling of name as received] of the Bulgarian Chambers of Commerce and Lazar Spasov of the Foreign Trade Ministry, is the first official economic mission from that country to visit here. Hosted by the Chambers of Commerce and the Export Institute, its members will meet today with Finance Minister Shim'on Peres and Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon.

Israeli imports from Bulgaria amounted to $2.2 million last year, while exports to Bulgaria totalled $1.6 million.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 16 January reports that "Bulgaria will open in Israel a trade affairs representation and is also interested in

opening one for tourism. This was said by the representatives of the Bulgarian Chambers of Commerce delegation to the director general of the Tourism Ministry in Jerusalem"]

El Al, Aeroflot Discuss Expanding Aviation Ties

TA1801185589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] The first meeting of its kind took place in Vienna today between top El Al and Aeroflot executives. The latter had issued the invitation to their El Al counterparts approximately 1 week ago. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that the two delegations discussed the expansion of commercial aviation ties between the two countries.

The El Al representatives said that the meeting was warm and friendly and great progress was made. It was decided to continue the meetings in the hope that El Al planes would eventually land in the Soviet Union and Aeroflot planes would land in Israel.

Growing PLO Prestige Assisting 'Uprising'

TA1901124289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Jan 89 pp 1, 12

["Analysis" by Asher Wallfish]

[Text] Two contrary developments in the course of the intifadah [uprising] demand an explanation.

Although the underground cells have been smashed, there has been an increase in violence and casualties.

The number of serious stone-throwing incidents rose sharply with the recent opening of the high schools in the territories. The number of deaths and injuries among Arab minors rose sharply, too, as the IDF responded with a heavier hand.

The increase in casualties followed Yasir 'Arafat's public relations breakthroughs in Tunis and in Geneva. The PLO chairman ordered the intifadah to continue and even intensify, while interrupting hostilities from across the northern border.

However, the escalation was not the result of orders given to the youth by members of the popular committees which had played a key role at an earlier stage of the intifadah.

The active membership of the popular committees has shrunk dramatically in the wake of large-scale arrests carried out over the past two or three months.

The various arms of the security establishment have achieved much more effective control on the ground lately. They are not taken by surprise in this regard, as they were in the early phase of the uprising.

The security establishment no longer holds that local elements in the territories are setting the tone. It rather traces a clear and direct influence on the part of Fatah, the mainstream PLO group outside the territories, upon trends inside.

The challenge to the IDF's control, which no longer comes from the weakened organized cadres, is posed by schoolchildren rioting spontaneously, hurling stones and the petrol bombs they have learned to make.

Inside information and prior tip-offs are hard to collect when bands of pupils are involved, rather than clandestine cells which can be nailed down, member by member.

That is why the military authorities are pondering options of bringing unruly Palestinian minors to justice more rapidly, penalizing their parents, and imposing longer sentences on those old enough, legally, to be incarcerated.

The security establishment knows very well by now which sectors of the population in the territories are most influenced by the fundamentalist Islamic movement, which by the Fatah, and which by pro-Syrian and pro-rejectionist groups.

Those diverse elements are at loggerheads ideologically, the authorities note, and they do not share long-range objectives. They would plunge into open and bloody quarrels among themselves if they felt that greater success could be achieved in that direction. Meanwhile, the authorities note, none of these elements has for one moment contemplated calling a halt to the intifadah. Despite the casualties and the suffering, they are keen to carry on. And the elements described before the intifadah as "moderates" have fallen completely silent.

While the authorities discern how the burden of carrying on the intifadah has shifted from the clandestine activist to the high school pupil, they also discern how the heightened prestige of the PLO internationally has given the uprising a fresh lease on life.

PLO Seen Increasing Involvement in 'Uprising'

TA1901140689 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Jan 89 p A3

[Report by Yosef Tzuri'el]

[Text] The PLO has increased the level of its involvement in affairs of the uprising since Yasir 'Arafat announced his readiness for political discussions. This involvement is expressed by instructing an increase in attacks and raising financial aid for local residents, senior security sources reported yesterday.

Yesterday's Inner Cabinet meeting, in which a review of the events in East Jerusalem, Judaea and Samaria, and the Gaza Strip was presented, was attended by the entire senior echelon of the defense establishment in charge of

security and public order in these areas. There was almost full agreement between the elements operating in the area on certain issues, as follows:

—The Shin Bet is more in control over areas beyond the Green Line than it has been for a very long time. This level of control results in the collection of high quality information, the foiling of planned acts of terror that might have caused grievous disasters, and the capturing of terrorists before they manage to carry out terror acts.

—The PLO has not moderated its positions on the uprising in the territories. It has increased its involvement since 'Arafat announced his readiness to enter a political process. The involvement finds its expression through various areas: The PLO searches for additional channels of communication with influential figures beyond the Green Line, encourages public figures not to allow the uprising to die away, and promises larger rewards to those who shoulder the strikes, demonstrations, and detentions.

—Broadcasts from the various Arab countries still are an important source of information and encouragement. The evaluation is that had the PLO wished to weaken the uprising, the level of instigation would have been diminished on most of the radio stations.

—Despite all the good will and intention to find among the notables in the territories a stronghold of collaborators for some sort of dialogue, and to help calm down the population and restore a normal way of life, results have so far been disappointing. Almost all of those addressed by senior Israeli representatives referred them to the PLO.

As for the issue of making punishments and the handling of rioters more severe, the opinion of the representatives of the defense establishment is that longer prison terms and making parents answer for their children deeds, might, in the long run, bring about a drop in the number of clashes between youths and IDF units.

Egyptian Envoy on Peace Process, Relations

TA1301161789 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 13 Jan 89 pp 1, 6

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Muhammad Basyuni, Egyptian ambassador to Israel—date, place not given]

[Excerpt] Egypt's ambassador to Israel, Muhammad Basyuni, affirmed that all the Egyptian moves seeking to find a solution to the Palestinian problem are on the basis of "peace in return for land," and that Egypt will never impose any settlement on the Palestinians to which they do not agree.

In an exclusive interview with AL-QUDS, Ambassador Basyuni added that Egypt views the convocation of the international conference as the only practical means available at present for resolving the region's crisis.

Ambassador Basyuni added that the Egyptian concept of the international conference is summed up in the necessity of holding the conference in the presence of the Security Council's five permanent member states and all the parties to the conflict in the Middle East, including the PLO.

On the recent reports about the possibility of holding the international conference under the auspices of the United States and the Soviet Union, Ambassador Basyuni said that the problem is a Palestinian one and the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Egypt will reject anything rejected by the Palestinians. Should the PLO accept this idea, we will accept it as well. We will support anything accepted by the PLO, because Egypt has a pan-Arab commitment to resolve the Palestinian problem. We are trying to do whatever we can through our contacts with all parties. Egypt is the only country now that is able to talk with all parties. It has an excellent relationship with the PLO and Jordan. It also has close contact with Israel in addition to maintaining special relations with the United States, the Soviet Union, and European countries.

Hence, Egypt is in a very good position, which it is devoting to serving the Palestinian problem and finding a just solution to it. As I have stated, Egypt will endorse anything accepted by the PLO. Since the international conference is currently on the agenda, I affirm that one of the principles of the Egyptian position is the convocation of an international peace conference as the only practical means for resolving the problem. The international conference is accepted by the United States, the Soviet Union, European and Arab states, and the PLO, in addition to half of Israel.

From the practical aspect, the international conference is available as a means for settlement. Should there be another means for resolving the problem that is acceptable to the parties concerned, Egypt will welcome this because the objective is not the international conference itself, but rather it is reaching a just solution to the problem. If the parties concerned were to agree on another means, Egypt will not object. I reaffirm that, with regard to resolving the Palestinian problem, Egypt will not agree to anything rejected by the Palestinians.

Regarding the outlines of the Egyptian move for advancing the peace process in the region in the coming phase, Ambassador Basyuni said that currently Egypt is engaged in continuous and active contacts to maintain the momentum in the wake of the new Palestinian stance and PLO recognition of Israel—the stance that has gained widespread international support. We are in constant contact with the United States and are urging it

to move. We are addressing U.S. public opinion, including Jewish organizations, and are trying to convince them that the present opportunity is a golden one that should be seized and not wasted. Coming generations will not forgive anyone who was the cause for wasting and losing this opportunity.

Ambassador Basyuni said that we are also in constant contact with the PLO and are coordinating with King Husayn because he has an active and important role that we cannot ignore. We are also maintaining a continuous dialogue with the Israeli Government and are engaged in permanent consultation with European countries and the Soviet Union.

He added that Egypt is also moving on the Arab level from the premise of the climate of Arab conciliation and solidarity and because the Palestinian problem is an Arab problem. Therefore, Egypt is moving on all levels because of its special relations with all parties. Moreover, Egyptian diplomacy places this problem at the top of its priorities.

Regarding the nature of the dialogue that Egypt is conducting with Israel, Ambassador Basyuni said that we are in contact with all Israeli sides. Reality obliges us to deal with Likud, Labor, and Israeli peace forces and hold discussions and exchange views with them. I believe that recent developments have had an effect in Israel. The latest opinion poll shows that 54 percent of Israelis support negotiations with the PLO. It has also become obvious to me through my contacts with various sides in Israel that there is a change. The position adopted by the PLO drove many key figures in Israel to call for a dialogue with the PLO. I believe that as Arabs and Palestinians, we should exert further efforts to show our goodwill, to affirm that we are serious in the peace process, and to inform the Israelis that while we call for acceptance of the Palestinians' right to self determination, we simultaneously wish also to realize security for the Israelis and desire to live with them in safety and stability after the achievement of peace.

Regarding his contacts with Israeli officials following the establishment of the new Israeli Government, Ambassador Basyuni said that Foreign Minister Moshe Arens was eager for his first meeting with a foreign personality to be with the Egyptian ambassador in Israel. Egypt has special significance, and peace between Egypt and Israel should evolve into comprehensive peace in the region.

In answer to a question regarding the fact that the Israeli initiative is based on the Camp David accords, and what will be the Egyptian response, especially since Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has said that the Camp David accords are outdated, Ambassador Basyuni said that Egypt is a country that honors its commitments. It is common knowledge that "Camp David" is a framework for peace. It contains a section relating to the Palestinians and another one relating to the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. Undoubtedly, Egypt is a country respected in the world and has a responsibility that it must honor. Therefore, it honors the agreements it has signed. As to the second section relating to the Palestinian problem, how can one force the parties that have not signed it to be committed to it? When President Mubarak says that the Camp David accords are outdated, this means that a change has occurred and that, on the basis of the new developments, the Palestinians, Jordan, and other Arab states that have disputes with Israel, such as Syria and Lebanon, cannot be forced to resolve their problems on the basis of agreements not signed by them.

Regarding the possibility of holding the international conference within a short time, Ambassador Basyuni said:

I believe that now we are closer to a settlement than ever before. The Palestinian problem has never been so close to a solution as it is now because new factors have appeared on the international and Arab arenas. There is a new stance by the PLO; European and international support for this stance; the European-Palestinian dialogue; and the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, in addition to U.S.-Soviet detente in resolving regional conflicts. Moreover, half of Israel is agreeable to the international conference. All this evidence provides hope that a solution is near, God willing. Everyone supports the international conference and is calling for its convocation.

Ambassador Basyuni said: We want to convene an international conference for three reasons:

First, the international conference encourages the various parties to participate in it. The presence of the Soviet Union will induce the Arab parties, such as Syria, Jordan, and the PLO, to attend the conference.

Second, the work of the committees that will be formed to discuss the problems of the various parties will not reach a dead end. The presence of other parties in the conference will assist in the proposal of ideas that will contribute to extricating the negotiations from deadlock should they reach that stage.

The third reason that makes us adhere to the concept of holding the international conference is that if a final agreement is reached the five great powers are the guarantee for implementing and safeguarding these agreements.

Ambassador Basyuni commented on the Israeli voices calling for applying unilateral autonomy, and said: There are many ideas, initiatives, and theories to resolve the problem, but we must differentiate between the possible and the impossible. It should be pointed out that any idea or plan in Israel must win the approval of the Israeli Government, and as everyone knows, the Israeli Government as a whole has rejected the idea of applying unilateral autonomy.

Regarding the possibility that President Mubarak will pay a visit to Israel and the conditions that he has set for this visit, Ambassador Basyuni said that the visit by itself is not the objective. The aim is the possibility of achieving progress in the peace process. The strategy of President Mubarak is the strategy of peace. The president will do anything that leads to achieving peace and advancing the peace process, be it visiting Israel or any other country. He is ready to meet, in Egypt or abroad, any leader if this would lead to aiding the peace process.

The issue is not the setting of conditions, but if there is anything new and positive, Egypt is prepared to use its utmost potential to support it. We hope that the initiative of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will contain something new so that we will be able to advance the peace process. President Mubarak is ready to welcome any person in Cairo, or come to Tel Aviv, or go anywhere else in the world should this be necessary. [passage omitted]

Cooperation on Pollution Planned With Egypt

TA1801185989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Israel and Egypt will cooperate on the prevention of pollution in the Mediterranean and Red Seas. This was decided today between Roni Milo, minister of ecology and environmental protection, and Muhammad Basyuni, Egypt's ambassador to Israel. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the two men discussed cooperation both in the field of ecology and on the peace process in the region.

Inner Cabinet To Finish Tabah Discussion 16 Jan

TA1501182789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] The Inner Cabinet did not complete its discussions on Tabah today and will meet again tomorrow afternoon. Our political correspondent has reported that the Inner Cabinet will then appoint the Israeli delegation to the talks, and, at the end of the debate, will also brief the Israeli delegation on the negotiations. At this stage, it is not clear when the talks will begin because Cairo has not yet given formal consent to the original date that had been set, namely this Wednesday [18 January].

At today's debate, Minister Ari'el Sharon demanded that the Tabah issue be made conditional upon Egypt's terminating anti-Israeli propaganda in the media, revoking the limitations imposed on trade with and tourism to Israel, and paying compensation to the families of the Ra's al-Burqa' victims.

Inner Cabinet Forms Position

TA1601144089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] The Inner Cabinet today decided to try to obtain free access for Israelis to Tabah and joint ownership of the Aviya Sonesta Hotel, without posing an ultimatum to the Egyptians. Minister Sharon opposed this conclusion. Our correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

It was Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir who put forward the position adopted in the Inner Cabinet on the Tabah issue. The Israeli team to the Tabah negotiations will try to obtain the best terms or the maximum on the two following issues: free access for Israelis to the Tabah area and joint ownership of the Aviya Sonesta Hotel. An attempt will be made to obtain the maximum, but without any conditions or ultimatums.

Minister Sharon demanded that the return of Tabah to the Egyptians be conditional on normalization in relations with Egypt, improvement in trade ties, and remuneration for the families of the Ra's al-Burqa' casualties. As stated, Sharon's proposal was not accepted, and all other Inner Cabinet members supported Shamir's position.

The negotiations between Israel and Egypt will begin at the Aviya Sonesta Hotel in Tabah on Thursday morning. The Inner Cabinet today also appointed the Israeli team to the negotiations. The team will be headed by Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav, and include legal adviser Robbie Sabel, Yitzhaq Li'or, and Alon Li'el. The Egyptian team will be headed by Nabil al-'Arabi and will include the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's legal adviser.

The Americans too will send a six-member team, headed by Abraham Sofaer. After the first round of talks, the Israeli negotiating team will return to brief the Inner Cabinet on the progress made in the deliberations with the Egyptians. It seems that the transfer of Tabah will not be concluded this week, and the teams will hold another round of talks in the area itself next week.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 16 January adds that "Nimrod Barqan, director of the Egypt Division in the Foreign Ministry," will also be a member of the Israeli delegation. In addition: "The Inner Cabinet has issued instructions to the delegation on Israel's demands regarding entry arrangements for Israelis into Tabah. Our political correspondent notes that the Inner Cabinet did not make the transfer of sovereignty over Tabah conditional on a demand that Egypt honor its commitments, but the delegation will raise this demand."]

Rabin Briefs Cabinet on Memorials in Territories

TA1501172989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told Cabinet members this morning that there is no ban in principle on the erection of memorials in Judaea and Samaria. Any such act, however, requires prior permission and coordination and can be banned if it turns into a political demonstration. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the defense minister was responding to comments by several ministers following last week's

incidents at Yaqir Junction. Minister Zvulun Hammer claimed that if the Cabinet's reputation is balanced against the feelings of a murder victim, the former must be subordinated.

Ministers Criticize Rabin

TA1501181689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Ministers Shahal, Meridor, and Olmert attacked the defense minister during the Cabinet session, arguing that in fact there is no real plan to combat the uprising in the territories. They contended that what is happening now is that a finger is being placed lightly on the trigger, firing plastic bullets that result in many deaths and injuries. They urged a reassessment of the instructions on opening fire and on using firearms permitted as part of the effort to quell the riots in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the matter will be discussed in the next Inner Cabinet session.

Tehiya Faction Submits No-Confidence Motion

TA1601120589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] The Tehiya faction today submitted a motion of no-confidence in the government over the issue of Tabah and the fate of the territories. Tehiya says that the disgraceful withdrawal from Tabah is a shameful act, and the prime minister's willingness to negotiate the fate of Eretz Yisra'el under UN aegis signifies, in fact, his readiness to participate in an international conference.

Left-Wing Parties Add Motions

TA1701185289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] The MAPAM, Citizens' Rights Movement [CRM], HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], and Center-Shinuy Knesset factions, and Knesset Member 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah today submitted no-confidence motions against the government because of the large number of killed and wounded, which has recently increased, in the territories. This is Dov Gilhar reporting. Five no-confidence motions were today submitted to the Knesset Presidency.

The MAPAM, CRM, and Center-Shinuy factions say that December and January were months setting a chilling record in the number of killed and wounded by rubber bullets not made of rubber and plastic bullets not made of plastic. The large amount of blood spilled does not drown the intifadah [uprising]. On the contrary, the blood only greases its wheels.

HADASH writes in its no-confidence motion that in the past few days dozens were killed and hundreds wounded in the territories. HADASH notes that the escalation of the suppressive acts, deportations from the homeland, massive detentions, and house demolitions are the permanent policy implemented by the government.

Knesset Defeats Motions

TA1801154389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] A short while ago the Knesset defeated the eight no-confidence motions submitted by the opposition parties from the right and the left. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stormed out of the room, furious that his response to these motions had been interrupted so many times. He did not return to the hall for the vote. During the roll call, the Cabinet's desk was occupied only by the prime minister and Likud ministers.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1400 GMT reports that in his reply to the motions, "Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that four Arab states produce sophisticated chemical weapons designed to be used against Israel." He "pointed out that the uprising in the territories cannot be disconnected from the general situation that endangers Israel's security. According to Rabin, the purpose of the uprising is to throw Israel out of all the territories and East Jerusalem. The defense minister stressed that this is not a struggle for human rights and freedom of speech, but a political battle with extreme goals that threaten Israel's security and its future."]

Left-Wing Knesset Members Note Change in PLO

TA1501165589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Several of the participants in the Paris conference, which was also attended by PLO representatives, have issued a statement summing up the meeting. The statement says that the appearance of Dr Nabil Sha'th, head of the PLO delegation to the conference, reflects the significant change the PLO stands have undergone in the direction of a readiness to recognize Israel and make peace with it.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz notes that the statement was signed by Knesset Members [MK's] Lova Eli'av, Shulamit Aloni, and Ya'ir Tzaban, as well as Peace Now representative Ya'el Tamir. MK Ora Namir did not sign the statement. [passage omitted]

Shahal Made Alignment Member of Inner Cabinet

TA1701195189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Minister Moshe Shahal will be the sixth minister for the Alignment to participate in the Inner Cabinet. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that this was decided by Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres

and he also reported this to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Minister Shahal will take part in tomorrow's Inner Cabinet meeting as a full member of the forum.

Labor Party Secretary General Bar'am Resigns

TA1501164089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Labor Party Secretary General 'Uzi Bar'am says that his resignation is the result of his objection to the Labor Party's participation in the Shamir government, which he believes to be destructive to the party's future.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that according to Knesset Member Bar'am, the Alignment has abandoned the political arena. He leveled criticism at Shim'on Peres for not welcoming George Shultz' remarks on U.S.-PLO ties.

As for his political future, 'Uzi Bar'am rejected the possibility of leaving the party. He said that if he receives sympathetic reactions, such as he did while serving as the party's secretary general, he will consider establishing a camp headed by him.

Lahd Releases 11 Shi'ites From Al-Khiyam Prison

TA1801190089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Eleven Shi'ite detainees were released from Al-Khiyam prison in southern Lebanon today, on orders from General Lahd, as a New Year's gesture. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht was told that Gen Lahd, who is recovering from an injury, is currently fully involved in everything taking place among his troops. He will return to work in the next few days.

IDF Completes Project at Lebanese Checkpoints

TA1601060989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] The IDF has completed an extensive security project at the border checkpoints between Israel and Lebanon. The project was undertaken as a direct result of the lessons learned in the wake of a bomb explosion at the Fatimah Gate several months ago.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that one of the steps taken to safeguard the transit points was a total separation of the IDF soldiers from the Lebanese residents and UN personnel crossing the checkpoints. A set of double gates was constructed and a new regulation was enacted by the Northern Command directing that military convoys proceed while maintaining wide spaces between the vehicles. In addition, a new lighting system was installed along the system's axis.

Our correspondent notes that some 80,000 people cross the border checkpoints every year. The project was completed at the cost of $50,000.

Lebanese Radio To Reach Beirut, Damascus

TA1601074589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] The south Lebanese Voice of the South radio station will install a new transmitter and antenna at the cost of $1.5 million. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the new equipment will allow the station to broadcast developments in the security zone to the entire Beirut area.

In addition, an antenna will be erected in the village of Shu'bah to enable the reception of south Lebanese broadcasts in Damascus and northern Lebanon. The radio station will be moved close to the border fence with Israel.

Our correspondent adds that the South Lebanese Army has set up an information apparatus to coordinate between the Voice of the South and Voice of Hope radio stations and Middle East television.

KAKH Declares Intent To Form 'State of Judaea'

TA1901123989 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 19 Jan 89 p 3

[Report by Jeremy Kaplan]

[Text] Jerusalem—Facing what they call the "unacceptable" alternatives of continuing the occupation or returning the territories, the KAKH movement yesterday declared its intention to form a State of Judaea comprised of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza.

At a formal gathering yesterday at the Jerusalem Plaza Hotel, KAKH leader Meir Kahane described the initiative as the Jewish people's "last resort," if Israel will not annex the territories it took in the 1967 war from Jordan and Egypt.

KAKH, in all seriousness, called the gathering "The First Zionist Conference of the State of Judaea." The program was patterned after Theodor Herzl's 1897 Basel conference, which was the first step eventually leading to the establishment of the State of Israel. A color guard presented a set of Judaean national flags, which differed from Israel's in that the new star is cocked onto the right side of the flag, features a lion and menorah in two of the points, and is marked with the words: "A lion lives in Judaea." A quartet also sang a new Judaean national anthem.

"People think there are only two alternatives, giving the land back or continuing the occupation. I am offering a third choice, one that is just and Jewish," Kahane told reporters before the conference. "The occupation is bad. The occupation is evil. I say end the occupation by annexation. If the land is ours, annex it; if it is not, then get out."

He stressed that the state would only be established if Israel withdraws from the territories. "This is a state that I hope never has to be. But if Israel will not take the land, then we will."

Kahane said the group would develop independent institutions of government, such as schools and courts, whenever these institutions would not conflict with existing Israeli authority.

Settlers would form their own quasimilitary organizations to respond to Arab aggression, Kahane said, but he absolutely ruled out the possibility that they would clash with the IDF.

Kahane dismissed the argument that his state would be dangerously divisive, especially during this period of rising international criticism of Israel following the PLO's declaration of the State of Palestine and internal polarization over the fate of the territories. "If there wasn't a problem, I wouldn't need to do this."

KAKH has been talking about declaring its "new state" since the October 29 Jericho bus bombing, which killed Rachel Weiss and her three children.

Speakers at the forum cited religious commandments to live in the area, quoting biblical passages and Maimonides' writings, as justification for the declaration. Among the speakers was Rabbi Mikha'el Ben-Horin of Moshav Nof in the Golan Heights, who will sit on the new state's council.

Courts Mete Out 'Heavy' Terms for Stonethrowing

TA1901093089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Military courts in Judaea and Samaria this week handed down heavy prison sentences to Arab youths convicted of throwing stones at IDF soldiers. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a Nabulus youth was given an 8-month prison term and fined 1,000 shekels because he was about to throw stones at soldiers but was caught before he managed to do so. In another case, a military court in Ramallah meted out 16- and 18-month prison terms to two youths who were convicted of throwing stones at an Army vehicle last week. The stones hit the car, but caused no damage.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Gaza Workers Not To Return

TA1801145089 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jan 89 p 3

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Some 40 workers of the Licensing Division in the Gaza Strip, who received threats on their lives, informed the head of the Civil Administration in the Strip that they do not intend to return to work.

Two days ago unidentified people entered the offices in Gaza, painted nationalist slogans, and destroyed equipment. It is known that heavy pressure has been exerted on the Division workers to not go to work. The Licensing Division workers said that they are afraid to go to the offices because of these threats.

Starting yesterday, when they notified the Civil Administration of their intention, the workers have been strongly urged not to resign. A meeting with the workers on the issue was held yesterday.

If indeed the workers resign, all car licensing work in the Gaza Strip would stop and thousands of drivers would not be able to renew their driving licenses.

Fatah Recruit Sentenced

TA1801190289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Major Ya'ir Rabinowitz, a military court judge in Gaza, today sentenced Hashim Mahmud Zakut to 14 years in prison. Zakut was convicted of attempting to park a booby-trapped car in Tel Aviv's central bus station about 9 months ago. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Zakut was recruited by a Fatah man in Gaza and was ordered to carry out a suicide attack, but was arrested before he managed to park the car.

6 Injured in West Bank

TA1801191089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Four residents were injured today in Judaea and Samaria in clashes with IDF soldiers: two in Hebron, one in Nabulus, and one in the Balatah refugee camp. Sources in East Jerusalem told our correspondent Arye Gus that six people were wounded today in Judaea and Samaria, and one of them is in serious condition. A strike was staged today in several towns in Judaea and Samaria to protest the rise in the number of fatalities. [passage omitted]

Residents of Tulkarm complained that an IDF officer driving a car with license plates from the territories opened fire at water tanks on rooftops, shooting holes in five of them. The IDF spokesman in Jerusalem said the complaint is being checked. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 18 January adds: "Firebombs and stones were thrown this morning at a Dan company bus carrying Arab workers from the Ramallah area. The driver of the bus and one passenger were injured."]

4 More Schools Closed

TA1901111189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Four more schools were closed in the territories today after riots and disturbances took place there yesterday. A short while ago two roadblocks made of stones were erected in the Shu'fat refugee camp. The police ordered the residents to demolish them, and used tear gas to disperse people who had gathered around them. Apart from this incident in East Jerusalem, it is generally quiet.

10 Wounded in Shootout

TA1901113689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Some 10 residents were wounded in a shooting incident today in the village of 'Arrabah, south of Janin. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that according to preliminary reports, participants in a march in the village this morning stoned the house of a resident who is known as a collaborator with the authorities. He shot at the assailants, wounding four of them. IDF units arrived at the village and wounded six, according to local reports. Military sources have not yet supplied an official report of the incident.

Our correspondent adds that a 3-day general strike is being staged today in most Judaea and Samaria locations in protest against the high casualty toll in the riots. [passage omitted]

'Terror Squad' Members Found

TA1901123289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] A terror squad of Israeli Arabs has been uncovered in Al-Tayyibah. The Petah Tiqva Magistrate's Court today lifted the ban on publicizing the affair. The names of the squad members, who threw firebombs and organized disturbances in Al-Tayyibah itself, are still being withheld. These acts caused damage but no casualties. Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports:

The squad members started operating about 1 year ago after briefly being trained by their leader in preparing firebombs. In March, they threw a firebomb at the police station in downtown Al-Tayyibah, causing slight damage to the building. Three months later they threw three firebombs, burning down an Egged bus parked in the village next to the driver's house. In August, they damaged the Bank Hapoalim branch in Al-Tayyibah, breaking a window and throwing firebombs inside. The investigators link the accused to damage caused to a police car and a Dan Company bus in the village. Firebombs were used here as well.

All five were known to the police as rioters. They are now being charged with throwing stones at policeman during the house demolitions in Al-Tayyibah. The police found 500 counterfeit U.S. dollars in a house belonging to one of them, but the investigators do not believe that they were operating for money.

Indictments were submitted against the five, who will remain in detention until the end of the legal proceedings against them. Those who exposed the squad are trying to establish whether there is a connection between the squad and criminals in the village who were found in possession of guns and hand grenades.

Mayor's Family Attacked

TA1901135189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] At least 10 Arab residents were injured today during an incident in the village of 'Arrabah in Samaria. Military sources reported that the family of the mayor of Janin was attacked by village residents. A member of the attacked family, who was suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities, fired at the assailants and wounded several of them.

Additional residents were wounded by IDF gunfire after troops were summoned to the scene to quell the riot.

A curfew was imposed on the village of 'Arrabah, and the police and IDF have begun investigating the incident.

Youth Killed Near Gaza

TA1901134989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Muhammad Jalal Dawawsah, 18, was killed this morning in the Al-Shati' refugee camp near Gaza. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that he was hit by soldiers' gunfire in the process of a violent incident. He died of his wounds some time later.

Three Arab youths were injured in stone-throwing incidents in the Hebron area.

'Collision Course' Seen in Relations With U.S.

TA1801171889 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 18 Jan 89 pp 6, 10

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "Where is the Real Enemy?"]

[Excerpts] The expected changes in the top personnel of the Mosad, against the background of the profound change in relations between the U.S. and the PLO, may expose Israel to serious security threats—if the man appointed is not attentive to the new sensitivities.

Israel's refusal to talk to the PLO—even after the beginning of a direct dialogue between the Palestinians and the United States—contains serious strategic dangers for Israel.

The Americans and the PLO do not just sit and chat. They are trying to find common interests and a basis for fruitful relations between them. The Pan Am crash was meant to sabotage PLO-U.S. relations by alleging that the very opening of a dialogue with 'Arafat has exposed American interests to Palestinian terror threats. The fact that no terror organization has assumed responsibility for it shows that the calculations went wrong. The last meeting between U.S. and PLO representatives dealt with cooperation between them to expose those responsible for the act.

It is hard to tell whether anyone in Israel is aware of it, but this U.S.-PLO cooperation constitutes a startling change in Israel's position in the United States, at least on the subject of terror. From now on the United States' strategic partner is 'Arafat, not Israel. New Deputy Minister Netanyahu's book about terror was indeed a best seller, but it is about to become outdated.

Furthermore, a very dangerous situation is emerging: Israel is falling into a position where terror attacks on U.S. targets would be in its interest. From that point it is a very short distance to the United States suspecting that Israel is actually behind terror acts.

It is estimated in Jerusalem that terror acts against U.S. targets might alter the U.S. decision to begin a dialogue with the PLO. It was recently published that Britain ignored an Israeli warning that a terror act against an American plane was probable because it doubted Israeli motives. Warning signals should be registering in Jerusalem as well.

The ignoring of Israel and preferring of Fatah as a partner in the battle against terror might make Israel a suspect in terror acts. The forged report in the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM, which alleged that Israel planted the fatal bomb in the U.S. plane, might prove to be the first drop of a filthy wave. It is possible that reporters seeking scoops might not be the only ones to think this way. Israel has not yet recovered from the Pollard affair; it must be above suspicion in such matters.

Fatah's announcement that it is ready to operate against the organizations suspected of the Pan Am crash contains a grave message for the territories as well. The PLO has declared that it will not stop the intifadah [uprising]. At a certain stage of the political process, however, it will have to do so. While demanding that Israel agree to an international conference or show an open attitude toward, for example, the PLO's political status, 'Arafat was honest enough, speaking in Geneva, to say that he cannot order the intifadah stopped and that he has no intention of doing so. The question is, therefore, whether the PLO would be able to stop the intifadah when it is in its interest.

The rejectionist organizations suspected of causing the U.S. plane crash are the toughest of all of 'Arafat's enemies, opposing him in the intifadah as well. They object to an international conference and will not agree to a cease-fire to enable its opening. The leaflets of Ahmad Jibril and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] state so clearly. There is no doubt that 'Arafat will have to do something about it.

Early last week 'Arafat spoke of the "people's bullets" finding those mentioning a cease-fire. Those that should be concerned are the rejectionist circles in the territories. Years ago 'Arafat spoke of a need for a Palestinian "Altalena" affair [in which a ship containing weapons meant for the Irgun was not allowed to reach Israel's shores and was shelled by the newly formed IDF in June 1948]. Is the time near?

There is no doubt about this being a serious development. Israel, in following its silly policy, does not leave Fatah another way out. A political way out of the intifadah should be of interest to the government in Jerusalem; however, it is well known that it does not believe so. In the same way that Israel is suspected of at least being interested in bad things happening to the Americans following the dialogue with the PLO, it is also suspected of worsening the intifadah.

This is done to prove Israel's steadfast position that the PLO should not be party to any process bringing an end to the intifadah. Deporting 13 Palestinians on Fatah Day is understood in this context. By the way, choosing days of symbolic significance, such as choosing the intifadah anniversary of all days to attack Jibril's headquarters, indicates a stupid sentimental process that had not been typical. [passage omitted]

The policy according to which the intifadah is seen as terror and those participating in it as terrorists places U.S.-Israel relations on a collision course. In the argument over terror, the Americans are ready to talk to the PLO, while recognizing the legitimacy of the uprising in the territories and not terming it terror. Moreover, because they are still interested in finding a solution putting an end to the uprising, they will turn to the PLO in looking for a partner and not to Israel. [passage omitted]

'Democracy' in 'Arafat's PLO Ridiculed

JN1801075289 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1245 GMT 17 Jan 89

[From the feature: "Brevity Is the Soul of Wit" by Sha'ul Menashe]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat has asserted that the Palestinian arena is democratic, that it does not contain prisons and cells to detain those with different opinions, and that

differences in viewpoints are a necessary, healthy phenomenon because the final view will be that of the majority and will be adopted within the legitimate frameworks.

Proof of the democracy of 'Arafat and his organization is his threat to kill the Palestinian leaders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip who call for stopping the incidents in the territories for a year to give a chance to a peaceful solution.

Aid to Palestinians Not Reaching Territories

JN1801082289 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1245 GMT 17 Jan 89

[From the feature: "Brevity Is the Soul of Wit" by Sha'ul Menashe]

[Text] Saudi Arabia has put at 21 percent its share of monthly Arab financial support to the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in implementation of the Algiers extraordinary Arab summit conference. Rafiq al-Natshah, director of the PLO office in Riyadh, said that Saudi Arabia will pay a monthly sum of $6 million to the PLO to back the Palestinian uprising in accordance with the Arab summit resolutions that stipulated that this financial support should be dispensed through the PLO and other available international channels.

These immense funds are earmarked for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, but those who receive them are the PLO figures and officials with big mouths and fat pockets. As for the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza, they only receive the crumbs.

The Palestinians in the territories are suffering and making sacrifices, but the PLO leaders are receiving the money on their behalf.

King Husayn's Remarks on Israel Criticized

JN1801083589 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1245 GMT 17 Jan 89

[From the feature: "Brevity Is the Soul of Wit" by Sha'ul Menashe]

[Text] Israel should rise to the level of the PLO. That is what King Husayn told the President of the European Parliament Henry Plumb in Amman.

In order to reach the level of the PLO, Israel should lower and not raise its level, as his majesty says. In order to be on the same level as the PLO, Israel has to practice terrorism, hijack planes, threaten moderate Palestinian figures, and work against the Jordanian and Lebanese entities. Is this what his majesty wants Israel to do?

Jordanian 'Economic Crisis' Examined

JN1801144289 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1030 GMT 18 Jan 89

[From the feature: "With the Midday Events"]

[Text] The economic crisis that began in Jordan 6 months ago is exacerbating despite the economic measures taken by Zayd al-Rifa'i's government, which included the devaluation of the dinar against the U.S. dollar. This has caused a drop in its value by about 35 percent, whereby the U.S. dollar became equal to 535 fils. The measures also included a ban on importing luxury goods from abroad in an attempt to redress the deficit in the foreign trade balance.

Beirut AL-RAYAH has warned against exacerbating the economic crisis in Jordan and the political repercussions resulting from it, including the shaking of the pillars of Hashemite rule in Amman and the tension in relations between Jordanians and Palestinians.

According to the Beirut-based newspaper, many Palestinians who were working in the Gulf oil-rich countries have lost their jobs following the drop of oil prices in the international market. Now, after they were a source of foreign currencies, which they used to transfer to their families, these people constitute a burden on Jordan's economy.

AL-RAYAH has also reported that during his latest Arab tour, King Husayn failed to obtain emergency aid to Jordan, especially since the countries that used to support his country financially, like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq, are themselves suffering economic crises.

Among the urgent problems currently facing King Husayn is the spread of unemployment because of economic recession. About 30 percent of university graduates are out of work. There is also a housing shortage. To make things worse, the bad weather, which prevailed in Jordan since early this month, has caused major damage to large quantities of agricultural products, which were supposed to be exported to Europe.

A spokesman for the governmental export company in Amman has said that the cost of damage resulting from bad weather reached 2.5 million dollars and that Jordan will have to stop exporting vegetables to other countries until February.

Concluding its analysis of the situations in Jordan, the Beirut-based newspaper stated that the Palestinians will try to take control of Jordan if their endeavors to establish a Palestinian state fail. The fundamentalist Islamic elements will also strengthen their positions if the economic and social situations exacerbate. The Jordanian authorities have succeeded in suppressing these elements.

Supporters of these elements have recently staged a march, which was the first of its kind in Jordan since 1965.

Jordan Seeks Loan From Gulf Banks

JN1901104489 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Jordan has asked for a $150 million loan from three Gulf banks. This was announced yesterday by the International Gulf Bank in Bahrain.

It is to be noted that Jordan has recently adopted a number of austerity measures to face its economic crisis.

Jordanian Dinar Exchange Rate Drops in West Bank

JN1901111089 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] The exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar declined to its lowest level in the West Bank yesterday. Money-changers sold the dinar for 3 shekels and 30 agoras. In some places, it was even sold for 3 shekels and 20 agoras. Less than 2 months ago, the price of the dinar was 5 shekels and 20 agoras.

AL-QUDS newspaper, published in the east of the capital this morning, said the continued decline of the dinar's value has resulted in more anxiety among most of the employees of the official and non-official institutions in the West Bank, as well as among thousands of families that partially or totally depend on drafts in Jordanian dinars coming from outside.

AL-QUDS added that the situation of people with limited income has become very miserable as they are facing a growing decline in the value of the dinar and the increased cost of fuel and essential foods.

HA'ARETZ quoted stock exchange experts in the West Bank as saying that the sharp decline in the value of the Jordanian dinar is not only because of the difficult economic situation in Jordan and the devaluation by Jordan of the dinar, but also to the fact that the dinar rate vis-a-vis the dollar is less in the West Bank than in Jordan. The sources believe that the deterioration of the dinar in the West Bank is also because of an increase in the demand for shekels needed to pay taxes and fines and to pay off debts of the Civil Administration after money collection campaigns intensified during the recent months.

The sources disclosed that because of the difference between the dinar's rate against the dollar in the West Bank and in Jordan some moneychangers had smuggled dollars from Israel and sold them in Jordan for higher prices. This has resulted in dumping in the West Bank stock exchange with dinars, causing yet another decline against the shekel.

Heroin, Persian Coke, Hashish Seized

TA1901100989 [Editorial Report] Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 13 January 1989 on page 2 reports the seizure by a Central District Police unit of "a drug station located near the IDF base in Zerifin." Five suspected drug dealers, including an 80-year-old woman whose body contained 67 grams of heroin, were detained.

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 15 January in a page 4 ITIM report says that "some 2.5 kg of hashish were seized in Ashqelon in a police raid" on a private apartment. Searches also revealed over 60 grams of heroin nearby.

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 18 January reports the detention of a 25-year-old Qiryat Shemona woman found to be in possession of 205 grams of Persian coke; also detained were her husband, a neighbor, and a resident of southern Lebanon "who is suspected of supplying the woman with the drugs."

Tel Aviv THE NATION in English on 18 January in a page 3 report says that a drug ring was uncovered in Or Yehuda "following a week of police surveillance activities on two separate apartments. Three suspects were arrested." Unspecified quantities of heroin were found in both locations. In the same report, THE NATION adds that a resident of Tel Aviv and an Arab from the village of 'Arraba are being arraigned on drug charges after "police found 324 grams of hashish as well as smoking paraphernalia and a scale in an apartment on Zerah Street in Tel Aviv. After further searching outside the apartment, police also found 3.5 grams of heroin."

1988 Consumer Price Index Analyzed

TA1601134389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Jan 89 p 7

[Report by economic correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Text] Almost all price indices in the economy rose more slowly in 1988 than in the previous year, indicating that the rate of inflation was slowing before Finance Minister Shim'on Peres launched his new economic programme earlier this month.

Figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics showed that with the exception of the Consumer Price Index [CPI], all other indices registered a lower increase last year than in 1987, and the increase in the CPI for 1988 was only slightly higher than the rise for the previous year. Last year the CPI rose 16.4 percent, compared with 16.1 percent. And, excluding the extremely volatile fruits and vegetables category, the CPI increased 16.2 percent in 1988, compared with 18.3 percent in 1987.

The sharpest fall in the rate of price increases was registered by the price index of inputs in road construction, which climbed 13.3 percent in 1988, compared with 24.3 percent in 1987. The Wholesale Price Index of Industrial Output, which in 1987 had increased 20.9 percent, rose 15.8 percent last year. The Residential Building Inputs Index, which in 1987 had increased 23.7 percent, rose 16.8 percent.

Within the CPI, there were wide variations in the extent of price increases for its various component indices. Those sectors in which there is competition from foreign goods, or where there was a marked slowdown in demand, showed only moderate rises. But several service categories, which are not affected by competition from imports or lower demand, registered price increases of over 20 percent in 1988. Government policies also affected the pace of price rises.

The bureau said that the average rate of consumer price increases for services was 21.9 percent, while the consumer prices of industrial goods rose only 12.4 percent. The prices of fuel, water, transport and communication—all under tight government control—rose only 7 percent on average last year.

The highest rate of consumer price rises was for food products—23.1 percent, reflecting two rounds of subsidy cuts in 1988. Housing prices rose 23 percent, while the prices of health services rose 21.9 percent. Newspapers and magazines rose 26.5 percent. On the other end of the scale the prices of clothes and footwear increased only 4.6 percent, while those of furniture and home appliances rose 8.2 percent. The low rate of increases in these prices fully reflects the slowdown in domestic demand.

Correction on Shamir on Peace Plans

The following corrections pertain to the item headlined "Shamir on Peace Plans, U.S. Dialogue With PLO" published in the 13 January 1989 Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 37:

Column one, first paragraph, first sentence: make processing indicator read "excerpt" instead of "excerpts."

Column one, paragraph four, from last sentence: ... in this way. [new paragraph]

[Shalev] Are you concentrating your efforts on the apparatus that will enable the start of negotiations?

[Shamir] No, I say the negotiations must be direct, I don't believe in conferences and things like that. But if it can help someone that these negotiations be held under some formal auspices, of the superpowers or of the UN, I don't mind, as long as the negotiations themselves are direct and on condition that the external bodies do not intervene in the content of the negotiations. Maybe it can help.

[Shalev] This week you mentioned for the first time the possibility of UN auspices.

[Shamir] Yes. Take for example in Iran-Iraq, where they helped, albeit not with much success at this point. But still they have made some headway, and this is being conducted under the auspices of the UN secretary-general, who invites the negotiating sides—I think he is already a little worn out from this matter—but does not intervene in the negotiations themselves. I understand now that there are complications, that the talks have stopped. But never mind, the secretary gives his auspices, and I don't mind this.

[Shalev] But doesn't this indicate a change in your attitude towards the UN?

[Shamir] No, I don't think the UN can be our saviour, I will never trust any decision made by the UN or by any UN institution, because we know in advance that any UN body, no matter what its composition, will be against us. But to fill a formal role? I don't mind, I don't mind. It just shows how far we are willing to go, even to take certain risks, although I stress that this is not a risk, because it cannot affect the substance, I'm willing to try it.

[Shalev] Do your .... (supplying additional material and deleting first editorial notation)

Correction on New IDF Appointments

The following corrections pertain to the item headlined "New IDF Appointments Announced 13 Jan" published in the 13 January 1989 Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 43:

Column one, paragraph one, last sentence: ...service. [passage omitted] [new paragraph]

Brigadier General Yequti'el Mor, chief.... (correcting rank per monitor recheck)

Column one, paragraph two, sentence two: ... He is replacing Brigadier General Elqana Har-Nof, ... (correcting rank per monitor recheck)

Column one, paragraph two, last sentence: ... yet been appointed. [new paragraph]

Colonel Mikha'el Navon was .... (correcting rank per monitor recheck)

Prime Minister Announces Soviet Trade Deal
JN1201074389 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12-13 Jan 89, p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA, J.T.)—The Soviet Union will import its first consignment of Jordanian phospahate during 1989 in implementation of an agreement signed by the two sides in Moscow last month. This was announced here following a meeting between Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Aleksandr Zinchuk during which they reviewed cooperation in a number of fields and developments in the Middle East region, according to the Jordan News Agency, PETRA. The agency said the two sides agreed at the meeting that a Soviet technical committee should visit Jordan during January to pave the way for a joint Jordanian-Soviet ministerial committee meeting that will convene in Moscow in March.

Jordan and the Soviet Union last month concluded an agreement on trade to be conducted on an equitable basis and in a manner that would achieve a balance in trade and increase the volume of exchanged products. The agreement in Moscow was concluded during a weeklong visit there by an economic delegation led by the Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Muhammad al-Saqqaf following the formation last year of a joint committee to look into ways of promoting trade and economic cooperation.

Al-Saqqaf said upon returning to Amman that the Soviets had expressed desire to purchase 40 types of Jordanian products including toothpaste, tissue paper, cosmetics, woollen cloth, cotton material, socks, gas ranges, nylon bags, refrigerators, washing machines, domestic appliances, furniture, nails, wooden doors, metal pipes, leather shoes and frames for eyeglasses, leather suitcases, paint, yeast, pesticides, ballpoint pens, detergents and electric materials. According to PETRA, the prime minister Tuesday also met with Italy's ambassador to Jordan, Francesco de Courten, who delivered the Italian government's consent to the formation of a joint Jordanian-Italian ministerial committee to promote trade, economic and cultural cooperation.

USSR Ambassador on Shamir's Position, Peace Plans
JN1301084989 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Jan 89 pp 1, 16

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B—USSR Ambassador in Amman Aleksandr Zinchuk has said that the Soviet Union agrees with His Majesty King Husayn that we are in no need of new plans and initiatives other than those already in existence to solve the Middle East conflict. What we need, however, is to intensify action for the convening of the international conference for peace in the Middle East, on which there is world consensus. In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, the ambassador commented on the statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in which he declared Israel's acceptance of negotiations under UN supervision but away from any interference by any party. The ambassador said the statement is nothing different from the so-called Israeli peace program, which was announced earlier. The statement, he added, is nothing but an attempt by Israel to break the siege imposed on it.

Zinchuk said: In my own point of view, there is no real change in the Israeli stand. Had the Israelis been serious in changing their position, they would have made an explicit declaration accepting the convening of an effective international conference under UN supervision to bring about a just peace in the region. On a question about converting the PLO office in the Soviet Union into an embassy, he said this will take place. However, he added, this is symbolic and what counts is that the Soviet Union will continue to support the position of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in all its potential. The Soviet Union will also continue to support the Palestinian people's struggle inside and outside the occupied territories.

Answering a question on whether the Soviet Union intends to propose any peace initiative shortly, the ambassador said that there is no new initiative at present, and the Soviet stand is in full harmony with the Palestinian and Arab stand, which seeks an effective international conference. There can be no peaceful settlement without Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. On the Soviet position toward a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation, the Soviet ambassador said that the Soviet Union was the first to announce that after the establishment of the national Palestinian state, it can enter into a confederation with Jordan.

'Nearly 3,000' Students Enrolled in USSR Schools
JN1401071589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Jan 89 p 3

[Excerpts] Moscow (PETRA)—The cultural attache at the Jordanian Embassy here has reported that nearly 3,000 Jordanian students are presently enrolled at various Soviet Universities and that nearly 120 Jordanians are annually enrolling at different educational institutions in the Soviet Union. Ghazi Balqaz said that Jordanian students are studying at nearly 50 universities and higher institutes of learning and that he was keeping in touch with them to identify their problems and ensure their well-being. Most of the students are pursuing studies in medicine, mechanical and aeronautical engineering, Balqaz noted. [passage omitted]

The Ministry of Education continues to send students on scholarships to acquire higher education in the Soviet Union, and during their stay students must not get married to non-Jordanians, according to Ministry of Education regulations, Balqaz pointed out. He said that

in the event a student violated this rule his scholarship would be immediately terminated and he would be requested to pay all the sums spent on his education. [passage omitted]

PETRA, MENA Sign Cooperation Agreement

JN1701132089 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Jan 89 pp 18, 15

[Text] Cairo—PETRA—'Ali al-Safadi, the director general of the Jordanian News Agency, PETRA, and Mustafa Najib, chairman of the MENA board of directors, signed in Cairo a joint cooperation agreement between the two agencies in implementation of a recommendation by the Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Joint Committee. The agreement was signed out of a desire to promote cooperation between Jordan and Egypt in the field of information and news, to increase each country's knowledge of the other, and to strengthen the professional relationship between workers of the two agencies.

According to the agreement, the two agencies will grant each other the right to receive news from one another and use it in their newscasts. They pledged that in using each other's news items, they will adhere to the contents and meaning of the news and be accurate and objective. The agreement also stipulated exchanging press reports and pictures related to important and special occasions requiring such an exchange. The two sides will give preference to news items transmitted by the side covering events in Egypt and Jordan and will offer all possible assistance to correspondents from one country who reside in the other.

The two agencies are considering exchanging visits and expertise in journalism as well as technical achievements. The terms for such exhanges will be defined by agreement by both sides. The two agencies will establish a duplex line between them to promote the accurate and speedy exchange of news as soon as the financial resources for this are made available.

AL-DUSTUR Hails British, EEC Stands

JN1501100089 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Jan 89 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Another Positive Turn in the European Stand"]

[Text] The active European move on more than one level toward the Middle East crisis and the Palestine question represents a real driving force within the framework of the multi-party international efforts aimed at seizing the opportunity to mobilize efforts to convene the international conference for peace in this part of the world. Undoubtedly, the statements by Sir Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, and, following these statements, the first meeting of its kind between a British minister and the PLO chairman, constitute in their totality, a clear indication that West Europe is now at the stage of preparing for a peace initiative that takes into consideration the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. This is in accordance with what has been stated by British and other ranking officials in the EEC governments.

The arrival of Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez in Tel Aviv yesterday, in his capacity as current head of the EEC foreign ministers, is another indication that the EEC countries have begun to take the initiative on practical proposals which could lead Israel to give up policies incompatible with the swift changes taking place in the political arena of the Middle East since the launching of the Palelstinian peace initiative by the PNC session in Algiers. Therefore, the current European stands and moves could be viewed on more than one level. They could be seen as another positive turn, not only in the European stand on the Middle East crisis, but also in the international stand. These serious and responsible moves and stands are in line with the stands of the superpowers which view with satisfaction the possible results of such moves and observe carefully this European vitality.

Perhaps the Israeli Government's realization of the meaning of all these moves and its awareness of the importance, seriousness, and activity of the western European bloc's stand is what has caused the Tel Aviv government to fall into the traditional Israeli contradictions. On the one hand, it talks of a peace initiative it is preparing, while on the other it declares its habitual and historic no's. This is what led William Waldegrave, British minister of state at the Foreign Office, to remind Israel that the world around it has changed and that it must stop its arrogance and stubbornness so that it will not be even more isolated and rejected by the international community.

As we view the current EEC role with deep satisfaction—a role that has gone beyond diplomatic language and political advice—to multi-sided, coordinated, and active movement, we hope that this movement will maintain its present momentum. We really wish to see an international effort in which the superpowers participate side by side with all other efforts being exerted in this field to overcome the final remaining obstacles on the path to the international conference. By this we mean the obstacle represented by the Israeli Government's stand.

Al-Huss Sends Reply to Arab League Committee

NC1401191489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss sent the following message to Lebanon's permanent envoy to the Arab League, Ambassador Sulayman Farah:

I request you convey the following position to the chairman of the seven-member committee, members and the Arab League General Secretariat from me and speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Husayn al-Husayni:

1. We welcome the results of the Arab League council meeting and affirm our complete readiness to cooperate with the seven-member committee to facilitate its noble endeavors to extricate Lebanon from its ordeal.

2. If the committee chairman and members have no objection, we request that the seven-member committee meetings take place in Lebanon with us and anyone else decided upon.

3. Regardless of any consideration, out of our appreciation for the noble mission the esteemed committee is undertaking, and out of our concern not to miss any precious opportunity the committee provides us in our efforts to emerge from our predicament, we assert our readiness to meet the committee in Tunis and on the set date, if the committee deems fit.

On 'Readiness To Cooperate'

NC1501110489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss has expressed his readiness to cooperate with the committee which was formed by the Arab League Council to solve the Lebanese problem. In an interview with the Qatari news agency, Al-Huss said he welcomes a meeting with the committee or with any one of its members at any time or place.

Answering a question about the possibility of holding a joint meeting between him and Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn in the presence of the Arab committee, Al-Huss said: The worst thing that can be done is to describe the situation in Lebanon as a conflict between two governments or two persons. The issue is not that of a dispute that requires reconciliation and then it will end. It is much deeper. The discussion with the Arab committee must focus on the essence of the Lebanese issue.

Asked whether there are contacts between him and Prime Minister Gen 'Awn, Al-Huss said that there are neither direct nor indirect contacts. Since the start of this abnormal period, he said, we have labored to ensure the unity of work and position for all those who have anything to do with the state institutions and departments. He noted that this is being conducted through officials in the various Lebanese departments.

Al-Huss expressed hope that the war between Amal and Hizballah in the south will end.

Talks With Kuwaiti Minister

NC1601173289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Dr Salim al-Huss, prime minister and foreign minister, was today contacted by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister. They discussed the moves to be made by the seven-member Arab committee which was formed at the Arab League Council meeting in Tunis last Thursday. Official sources said that there was an agreement on the need to achieve positive results to safeguard Lebanon's unity and help it end the impasse.

Prime Minister al-Huss expressed his gratitude to Shaykh Sabah, who is the committee's chairman, and stressed his readiness to cooperate to the utmost with the committee to ensure the success of its mission.

Departs for Damascus

NC1701091089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss left for Damascus this morning. While there he will hold consultations with the Syrian leadership led by President Hafiz al-Asad and Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Dr al-Huss is expected to return to Beirut later today.

Returns From Damascus 17 Jan

NC1701172089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss returned to Beirut from Damascus this evening.

Kuwaiti Minister Calls 'Awn; Discusses Arab League

NC1601154289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has received a telephone call from Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister. They discussed the outcome of the Arab foreign ministers conference. The talks focused on the invitation extended by the Arab League committee to certain Lebanese leaders to visit Tunis.

It has been learned that Gen 'Awn has expressed his readiness to deal positively with any serious initiative aimed at helping Lebanon liberate its territory, regain its sovereignty, and unify its decisionmaking. It has also

been learned that 'Awn has made a decision on Lebanon's participation in the committee's work in Tunis, but the level of participation will not be finalized until certain consultations have been completed.

Arab League's Farah To Meet With 'Awn, Al-Huss

NC1701182289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Ambassador Sulayman Farah, Lebanon's delegate to the Arab League, arrived in Beirut this afternoon. While in Beirut, Ambassador Farah will hand Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn, Salim al-Huss, and Husayn al-Husayni invitations from the seven-member Arab committee to meet with it in Tunis.

In an arrival statement, Ambassador Farah said he had been summoned to Lebanon by the Foreign Ministry. He noted that the Arab committee addressed invitations to Gen 'Awn, Al-Huss, and Al-Husayni on 12 January, adding that at the time he had conveyed the invitations by cable.

Asked if he is bringing any particular viewpoint on behalf of the committee on how the Lebanese crisis could be tackled, Ambassador Farah said: It would be better to address this question to the committee, which is engaged in continuing consultations. He added that the committee members will do their best and exert maximum efforts to ensure the success of their mission.

Ambassador Farah stressed the Arab foreign ministers' interest in finding a solution to the Lebanese crisis, emphasizing the seriousness and depth that characterize the committee's work. He appealed to the Lebanese to meet their responsibility and cooperate with the committee to end Lebanon's dilemma. He described the outcome of the preliminary meetings of the Arab committee on Lebanon as positive, adding that the atmosphere during the meetings was one of conciliation, fraternity, cooperation, and a true desire to achieve something practical, effective, and genuine to serve Lebanon.

Ja'ja' Comments on Arab League, Lebanese Issue

NC1601084989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] The current Arab moves on Lebanon and the Lebanese Forces' view of various developments were the central issues in the interview conducted with Dr Samir Ja'ja' by the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation in Bayt al-Mustaqbal yesterday. Dr Ja'ja' predicted that the six-member Arab committee will not reach practical results on the Lebanese issue. However, he said, this and other committees will perpetuate in the minds of various people, including the Arabs and the Westerners, the idea that the Lebanese issue is primarily an issue of Syrian occupation. This, he said, will prompt everyone to deal with the Lebanese crisis from this point of view; thus, we can say that we have begun on the right track.

Ja'ja' noted that it is the first time that a meeting on Lebanon will take place at this level—a special committee formed of six Arab countries, excluding Syria. Syria, he said, can no longer deal with Lebanon unilaterally as it did before. Syria in 1989 is not the Syria of 1979 and 1983. Therefore, various facts, whether at the level of Arab countries or at other levels, are bound to change.

Ja'ja' explained that the Lebanese problem is at the same time very easy and very difficult. If the Syrian forces are driven out of Lebanon, then a favorable atmosphere will prevail among the Lebanese and the entire crisis will be solved. He said: There is no objection to holding a presidential election before removing the occupation. If the election is to help remove the occupation, then it is most welcome.

Dr Ja'ja' expressed his readiness to hold a dialogue with all internal and foreign parties concerned with the Lebanese crisis, but within the context of the basic Lebanese constants which are founded on Lebanon's sovereignty, freedom, and independence. He disclosed that there is no dialogue in the real sense being held with Syria. If Syria wants a serious dialogue with Lebanon, he added, it must recognize Lebanon as a sovereign, free, and independent state. The Lebanese Forces commander stressed that Syria does not want presidential elections to be held in Lebanon. He noted: Had America succeeded in implementing its wish by making Mikha'il Dahir reach the Presidency in Lebanon, we would have seen real anarchy.

He emphasized that the current government has proved after 3 months that it is more than a government of independence. He noted his coordination with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn on political moves. He also pointed out that Patriarch Sfayr had made intense efforts to find a solution to the election crisis but his initiative was stopped in Syria and nothing more is being heard of it.

Regarding the displaced people, Ja'ja' said they are not a burden on the resistance; rather, they are the basic preoccupation of the resistance. If they constitute a burden, then this means that we all are burdens on ourselves. If they [not further identified] do not want us to take care of ourselves, our people, and our society, what shall we care about? He noted that the resistance's basic efforts are concentrated on the issue of the displaced people, pointing out that the solution to their issue falls within the general settlement of the Lebanese crisis as a whole.

Outlines Views on Solution

NC1901094989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has affirmed that we must acheive general mobilization sooner or later. Then the countdown for the Lebanese

issue will begin. The Lebanese issue, he said, cannot be solved by mediation [al-taradi], the Arab League, or memorandums, but with existing effective power on the ground.

The commander said: When we get to the negotiating table, the results will be determined by the balance of power, therefore we must begin being optimistic about the future of our cause. He added: Our political views are known. We do not want the war to end in a conventional manner, particularly for the sake of our martyrs. The time of reaping has come. We must, therefore, have clear views and not accept any retreat or concessions.

Dr Ja'ja' declared that Syria is the biggest imperialist state because it occupies Lebanon openly. He affirmed that military strength means peace, while weakness means the war which takes place when one party thinks that it can resolve the situation.

During his visit to the Phalangist party headquarters in Al-Ashrafiyah last night, the Lebanese Forces commander affirmed that there is great hope for the future. It is important, he said, that we not commit mistakes. We must remain steadfast, prove our existence, and reinforce our strength. If we were to draw an important lesson from this war, it would be that of building a state in Lebanon which would be responsible for us all and would spare us future wars. Of course, we must not allow any country to occupy our land.

Dr Ja'ja' added: Building the state must be done on a clear basis and to give Lebanon a clear identity. It is most important that there be no plurality in state positions. Coexistence with the Muslims is inevitable, but this does not mean building the state on unstable foundations. We do not want to liquidate the Muslims, and we do not want the Muslims to liquidate us. However, we do not want to exist according to the 1943 formula. It is important to find a method of coexistence that will spare us a war with the Muslims yet will have the prerequisites for viability and durability, he said.

Al-Tufayli on U.S. 'Decision' To Eliminate Islam

NC1501095089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 gmt 15 Jan 89

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli has stated that there is an American decision not to leave a trace of Islam in Lebanon after this task was assigned to Nabih Birri. In a Hizballah-sponsored ceremony to pay tribute to a group of Islamic resistance martyrs in the Imam al-Mahdi Mosque in Al-Ghubayrah yesterday, Al-Tufayli said: We are for a complete and full reconciliation and our brothers, not only in Safi but in the whole of Lebanon, should adopt the same position.

Commenting on the booby-trapped car which exploded in Al-Ruways during a Hizballah procession, his eminence said: One can hardly believe that, except for Nabih Birri, there are some Shi'ites who would dare to commit such crimes. He added that Birri sent a booby-trapped car rigged with explosives to a procession full of children, elderly people, and women to mow them down, and voiced surprise that Birri should reach this level of brutality.

Al-Tufayli pointed out: Hizballah will not beg after our brothers in the Islamic resistance managed to lift the siege imposed on them. He noted that no matter how hard the Birri gangs try to gain control of the mujahidin positions, they will not be able to advance a single step toward these steadfast posts. On the recent proposals to end the dispute between Birri's Amal and Hizballah, his eminence hinted that there are people launching disguised plans which call for the return of the resistance men to Safi. He wondered about guarantees that the resistance would not to be attacked again.

Al-Tufayli concluded by blessing the meeting between Shaykh Shams al-Din and Ayatollah Fadlallah, expressing hope that the meeting will be a step toward ending the existing problems.

Reportage on Hizballah-Shams al-Din Meetings

Fadlallah on 'Positive' Meeting

NC1501113389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Commenting on the ulema meeting that took place at the home of Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, chairman [as heard] of the higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, Hizballah issued a statement which said: Yesterday's meeting between Their Eminences Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din has brought joy to the hearts of believers both inside and outside Lebanon. Hizballah, the statement said, viewed the meeting as a responsible initiative and hoped that it would be followed by positive and practical steps to end the strife among the sons of the same sect.

It is hoped, the statement read, that these steps will help reach a political solution that preserves the power of the Muslim Shi'ites, especially in confronting Israel and the Zionized people in the eastern area and the occupied strip, and guarantees the security of the south and the resistance until the land has been liberated through jihad and a cohesive war society.

The statement added: We stress the importance of our ulema's meetings and moves for the good of Muslims and Islam, which are aimed at halting the sedition and lifting the people from the darkness of odious fighting into a sphere of understanding among all the sons, key figures, and forces. The statement emphasized the Hizballah's readiness to respond to the goodwill efforts by all sincere people so as to save their kinfolk from all their troubles and ordeals, stop the bloodshed, preserve their dignity, and make them victorious and proud.

Amal-Hizballah Crisis Discussed

NC1501185889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, received Hizballah leaders Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli and 'Abbas al-Musawi at the Council's temporary premises this evening. Shaykh Musa Shararah, Ja'farite Mufti 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan, Shaykh Hasan 'Awwad, Shaykh 'Abd al-Husayn 'Abdallah, members of the Council's general sharia body and secretariat general, Scholar Hasan Trad, and an Al-Biqa' ulema delegation attended the meeting.

The conferees reviewed the crisis between Amal and Hizballah and the efforts which the Council is exerting to repair the rift and end the fighting. They also examined ways of ending the fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah to pave the way for dealing with political and other aspects of the problem between the two parties.

Amal, Birri Criticized

NC1701074089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] As part of the efforts to end the dispute between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, a delegation representing the Hizballah Command has visited Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, at the Council's temporary premises in Bi'r Hasan. The delegation included their Eminences 'Abbas al-Musaw and Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli. This is the second such visit in 24 hours.

According to media sources in Hizballah, the conferees discussed ways out of the present situation, which threatens both the Shi'ites and the Lebanese. The sources added: The party's position is clear, and this position was explained to both Shaykh Shams al-Din and Shaykh Qabalan.

During the meeting, the delegation members asserted to their eminences that the problem does not lie in the present situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah, or in our presence in Jba', or anywhere else. The problem lies in Amal's insistence on wiping us out, they said, and in Birri's decision to uproot the Islamic resistance from the south.

On this basis, any solution must be founded on both a security and political formula, to be developed and honored by both parties. Moreover, any practical steps in Jba' or any other area must be part of this security and political formula, the delegation members added.

Mediation Efforts 'Deadlocked'

NC1801071389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] The political mediation efforts to end the Amal-Hizballah war have reached a blind alley due to the stumbling of the initiative embarked upon by Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan.

It should be recalled that the series of meetings conducted by Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, with Hizballah leaders and Iranian Embassy officials have produced a military truce between the combatant sides. However, efforts to reach a security reconciliation and, consequently, a political reconciliation have failed. Hizballah's insistence on achieving a political reconciliation as a condition for establishing any security solution has completely wiped out the possibility of implementing Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan's initiative. Hizballah has further refused to withdraw its gunmen from Jba' and 'Ayn bu Siwar, except within the context of a total solution of its dispute with the Amal Movement.

Meanwhile, Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has declared that any local mediation efforts will stumble if carried out far from the current regional circumstances. Qabalan, for his part, urged the fighters to resort to rationalism and wisdom so that his initiative will bear fruit. He reiterated that the security solution represents an opening for the political solution.

Highly placed political sources expect the situation in the south to escalate further. This will certainly reflect on the situation in Beirut and Al-Biqa'. The sources maintained that the firm Syrian stand demonstrated last week cannot alone prevent sparking off events to Beirut and Al-Biqa'.

Meanwhile, knowledgeable sources have stated that the attempts have reached a deadlock. They expressed pessimism over the current situation and possible developments and noted that the stumbling of efforts was generated by Hizballah's rejection of Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan's initiative and by the Amal Movement's commitment to the initiative and its refusal to hold a general reconciliation before the killers of the three Amal officials have been handed over.

The Amal Movement emphasized that Hizballah has turned down all guarantees, including the Syrian guarantee. The movement noted that the Hizballah plan is very serious and aims to displace the inhabitants of Iqlim al-Tuffah and build military terrorist bases in the area in order to join the regional game.

Shams al-Din Reportedly Flees Assassination Attempt

NC1801203989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Security sources in West Beirut have revealed to our correspondent that the car of Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher

Islamic Shi'ite Council, came under machinegun fire when Shaykh Shams al-Din was returning home at 2200 yesterday after visiting Husayn al-Husayni. The tires of the car were damaged. Al-Husayni immediately contacted him to assure himself about Shaykh Shams al-Din's condition.

Hizballah Official's Motorcade Ambushed 16 Jan

NC1601181689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] It has been reported that at 1745 today, the motorcade of Abu 'Ali al-Haj, a Hizballah official in Al-Awza'i, in Beirut's southern suburb, was ambushed in the Bi'r Hasan area, near the Imam al-Sadiq Mosque, while Al-Haj was on an inspection tour of Hizballah positions. As a result of the ambush, Hizballah member Muhammad al-Sayyid was kidnapped.

Hizballah Says Birri Formed Assassination Squads

NC1701202289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] A Hizballah source today accused Amal leader Nabih Birri of forming three squads to assassinate Hizballah members. The source said that Muhammad Hamdan leads the first squad, Lebanese Army Officer 'Abbas Nasrallah the second, and Ahmad al-Ba'labakki the third.

Hizballah Denies Fadlallah, Al-Tufayli Clashes

NC1801071989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] With regard to the situation in the south, Amal has said that clashes took place in Iqlim al-Tuffah and that the Israeli tanks in Tallaht Sujud had shelled the Amal positions in Jarju'. Hizballah sources, however, denied that these clashes had occurred. Hizballah also denied that a clash had taken place between a group belonging to Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and another belonging to Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli.

A Hizballah media official accused the Amal Movement of killing four Hizballah members after torturing them in an Amal prison in Zifta.

The Amal Central Media Bureau stated that the resistance motto used by Hizballah is nothing but a feeble pretext for an extensive suicidal and criminal scheme which provides for the evacuation of the residents of the Iqlim al-Tuffah villages in order to turn these villages into terrorist military bases and thus enter the regional policy and balances game.

Intermittent Amal-Hizballah Clashes in South

NC1801172989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] According to the latest security reports from the South, intermittent clashes involving all types of weapons are now taking place between the Amal Movement and Hizballah on the Jba'-Ayn Bu Siwar-'Ayn Qana lines in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Foreign news agencies have cited security sources as saying that both parties are continuing their acts of killing and kidnapping in the South, though the fighting between them has abated.

The agencies said that both sides are continuing to fortify their positions and that Amal is maintaining its siege, which is cutting off the supply routes to Hizballah.

Nasirites, Islamic Group Clash in Sidon 12 Jan

NC1201123489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] A clash occurred between armed men belonging to the Nasirite Popular Organization and others belonging to the Islamic group [al-jama'ah al-islamiyah] on Al-Sitt Nafisah Street opposite 'Awdah Bank in Sidon at 0700 today. The Islamic group's headquarters is located in that area. A member of the Zu'aytar clan was wounded in the clash and tension prevailed in the area.

4 Wounded in 15 Jan Clash

NC1501073889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Four people have been wounded in Sidon in a clash between armed Palestinians and members of the security police of the Nasirite Popular Organization. According to reports, a group of armed Palestinians traveling in a vehicle on the 'Ayn al-Hulwah road threw a hand grenade at the security police. The incident developed into a clash between the two sides during which rockets and automatic weapons were used.

Agriculture Body Restores Egypt's Membership

JN1801182589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] The 18th ordinary session of the Arab League Arab Organization for Agricultural Development [AOAD] ended in Damascus today. The session was held over the past 2 days under President Hafiz al-Asad's patronage and under the chairmanship of Syrian Agriculture Minister Muhammad Ghabbash. This session was attended by delegations representing 19 Arab countries, including Lebanon and the state of Palestine. Iraq, Egypt, and Libya did not attend. Delegations from 13 regional organizations participated in the meetings.

The session adopted several resolutions on projects dealing with Arab food security.

After reading the recommendations and the resolutions, Minister Muhammad Ghabbash announced that the first decision the AOAD had unanimously adopted stipulates the immediate termination of the suspension of Egypt's membership in the AOAD and tasks AOAD Director General Dr Hasan Fahmi Jum'ah with making the necessary arrangements for the implementation of this decision.

The Syrian agriculture minister and chairman of the session said: I hope that this decision, which was unanimously adopted and which emphasizes the common desire to enhance joint Arab action, will help the brothers in Arab Egypt free themselves from the chains of the Camp David accords as much and as soon as possible.

Minister Ghabbash concluded by saying: I hope that this decision will be a good start in bolstering the Arab trench of steadfastness.

The session adopted another resolution to immediately earmark $50 million to assist Sudan in combatting locusts. With respect to Lebanon and its regional allocations, it was agreed to pay $50,000 for last year and another $50,000 for this year to complete studies on olive tree projects. An additional sum of $100,000 has been approved for the occupied Arab territories studies.

The AOAD director affirmed that the AOAD's deficit has reached $19 million in the form of debts by the Arab countries to it, thus making it experience a stifling financial crisis. Eng Sa'd al-Din Ghandur, the head of the delegation of the state of Palestine, was elected chairman of the technical committee stemming from the AOAD's council.

Damascus TV Notes Restoration

JN1801185989 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The 18th session of the Arab Agricultural Ministers Council of the Arab Organizations for Agricultural Development [AOAD] has concluded its proceedings in Damascus this evening. The session was held under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad.

The session has issued a number of important resolutions and recommendations, which are connected to boosting the march of joint action; speeding the implementation of projects of Arab food security; closing the food gap in the Arab world; and implementing programs for fighting desertifaction, increasing agricultural areas, and fighting the desert locust.

The conference also decided uanimously to restore Egypt's membership in the AOAD and to charge the organization's director general with implementing this. [passage omitted]

Khaddam Receives Lebanon's Al-Husayni, Al-Huss

JN1701131089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received at 1100 today Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies; and Dr Salim al-Huss, Lebanese prime minister. The meeting was attended by Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister, and Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs. Discussion during the meeting dealt with the situation in Lebanon, the ongoing developments in the Lebanese arena, and means to end the crisis in Lebanon.

Receives UN's Goulding

JN1701192489 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general for special political affairs, and his delegation at 1800 today. The talks centered on the extension of the mandate of the UN forces in southern Lebanon as well as the situation in the Middle East.

ILO Briefed on Israeli 'Inhuman Practices'

JN1501201889 Damascus Domestic Service In Arabic 1915 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Damascus—Haydar Buzu, social affairs and labor minister, has presented to the ILO fact-finding mission currently visiting the country a detailed explanation on the inhuman practices adopted by the Zionist enemy in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories. These practices are considered violations of both human rights and international norms. Buzu stressed Syria's support,

under President Hafiz al-Asad, for the Palestine question and the uprising until victory, liberation, and the regaining of the Palestinian Arab people's national rights.

It is noteworthy that the committee is visiting the country at the request of the ILO director as part of a Middle East tour in order to compile information on the conditions of the Arab workers and inhabitants in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories. This information will be conveyed to international forums.

Golan Arabs Deny Reports on Israeli Citizenship
JN1801130089 Damascus SANA in Arabic
0954 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] The liberated 'Ayn al-Tinah area, Al-Qunaytirah, 18 Jan (SANA)—Syrian Arab citizens in the occupied Golan heights have reaffirmed their adherence to their firm struggle line and pledge to resist the criminal Zionist occupation and repressive colonial policies until victory and liberation.

The citizens, who spoke through loudspeakers from the occupied town of Majdal Shams and were clearly heard at the liberated 'Ayn al-Tinah area overlooking the town, have denied the allegations that are being disseminated by the occupation authorities through their official media in order to split the national ranks of the citizens in steadfast Golan.

The speakers refuted the allegations, which were made by the Zionist enemy radio recently, especially with regard to the social ban that the Golan strugglers have imposed on a handful of weaklings who have chosen to accept Israeli citizenship. The speakers affirmed that these agents, who have nothing to do with the Golan or Arabism, are still repudiated and boycotted and can never be pardoned.

The speakers reaffirmed that the sons of steadfast Golan are strongly bound to their mother'and, Syria, and that they firmly adhere to their Syrian Arab identity and affiliation to the Arab nation. They also reaffirmed their common struggle and destiny with their brother Palestinian revolutionaries in their brave uprising, which has inflamed the earth beneath the feet of the Zionist aggressors in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

The speakers renewed their pledge to continue their struggle and to march behind the historic leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, the symbol of steadfastness, honor, and heroism, until victory and liberation are achieved and the brave Golan returns to the fold of their Syrian Arab motherland.

Arab League Presence in French Seminar Decried
JN1801121689 Damascus SANA in Arabic
0900 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Damascus, 18 Jan (SANA)—In its comment today, TISHRIN asks: How could Arab League representative in Paris, Hammadi al-Sid—a personality who enjoys a corporate, diplomatic, and political status and represents an Arab organization, namely, the League of Arab States—participate in a seminar on the European role in the search for peace in the Middle East, which was organized by the French Senate and attended by members of the Zionist Knesset?

The paper continues: Is this not a clear and surreptitious violation of the Arab League charter and decisions? What would such participation mean, if we remained acquiescent, other than that it is an indication of a change in the Arab League's stand of not holding meetings with Israelis, since such meetings will jeopardize Arab policy and the Arab boycott of Israel, which not only applies to individuals and political personalities, but particularly also to corporate posts of official and public nature such as ambassadors, diplomats, and representational missions?

TISHRIN adds: The most urgent question now is: Was Al-Sid's participation in the seminar with the knowledge of the secretary general of the Arab League or was it a personal initiative?

The paper affirms: In either case, there has been a violation of the Arab League's policy, charter, and decisions. We must seek the truth and pose the question: Where does the political responsibility for such participation lie? Who is directly or indirectly responsible for this action, which shoulders the Arab League with a stand that conflicts with its charter and the Arab boycott rules which cover everything Israeli, including individuals, organizations and products?

TISHRIN affirms: The Zionists who have participated in the seminar have come especially to absolve the Zionist entity of shedding Arab blood, to defend Zionist repressive and terrorist measures, to save the Zionist entity from the uprising nightmare, and to improve the Zionist image before world public opinion in an attempt to end Israel's increasing political isolation in the international arena.

Concluding its comment, the paper says: While we and Arab political and diplomatic circles denounce Al-Sid's misconduct in attending the seminar, we expect a firm stand to be taken against this conduct in order to protect what the Arab League stands for; namely, common Arab decision and adherence to Arab rights and the charter which embraces all Arabs.

Commentary Views Arab League Efforts in Lebanon
JN1801161189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, it is expected that the committee formed by the Arab League to contact the Lebanese

parties will begin its serious activity soon. The committee's establishement, preparation for work, and bridge-building with the various Lebanese parties has created movement in the Lebanese political atmosphere which, since the end of last year, has been witnessing heavy stagnation.

With the return of political activity in the Lebanese arena, hopes, expectations, and outbiddings have risen. The newspapers and television screens have revealed some of these activities, even if some of the activators have not been so fortunate, since sound national logic has deserted them.

No matter what the local, external, and political games and maneuvres are, the general feeling is that the work of the Arab committee will do no harm. On the contrary, it will help the Lebanese brothers rethink a way out of the present situation and grab the opportunity to look for common denominators and solid bases. On these will be founded the awaited solutions to some of the issues and, it is hoped, to a future Lebanon that will be able to absorb shocks, shake them off, and play its natural role in its natural environment and the world. It will also make the Arab brothers move nearer the Lebanese issue with its complications and specifications and get to know the minute details and broad outlines of local, regional, and international policies on Lebanon.

There is not the slightest doubt at all that Syria, which agreed to and encouraged the formation of this committee, hopes that all Lebanese will cooperate with it honestly. The Lebanese should also take the opportunity it offers to overcome some artificial obstacles and barriers, move on to a state of realization of regional and international events and their effects on Lebanon, adapt to the general trend, and make use of the opportunity to get Lebanon out of its abnormal situation and solve its crisis, not simply as an issue but as a matter of saving a homeland for all its sons and building it on supports that will not be affected in the future by any hostile factors.

Syria will always be at the side of the Lebanese brothers in their attempt to save their country, end the prevailing abnormal situation, and deal with basic, not passing, issues. All Arab aid, in addition to the exerted efforts to solve the Lebanese situation stemming from a national, Arab, and radical starting point, is a positive contribution, which will definitely be welcomed and encouraged.

If this aid has come rather late from the point of view of some people, it is still not too late. Every Arab commitment to help Lebanon maintain the unity of its territory, people, and Arab identity and its right to liberate its occupied land and play its natural role is a support for Lebanon and the efforts of its people. It is also a meeting point with the fraternal Syrian effort exerted in the Lebanese arena over many years.

The Arab effort stemming from the interest in preserving Lebanon's continuation, Arab identity, and Arab role is a move for the benefit of Lebanon and the pan-Arab cause. Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Huss felt yesterday in Damascus the extent of Syria's concern to help Lebanon to overcome the present situation on sound national bases, which will continue, as well as cooperation with the Arab committee presently engrossed in preparing the means and tools for its coming steps.

Banker Reportedly Bribes Khaddam, Talas

JN1601163689 Baghdad INA in English
1435 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Beirut, Jan. 16, INA—Syrian deputy premier [title as received] and Syrian defence minister, respectively 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Mustafa Talas, have received huge sums in bribes in return for facilitating the conclusion of suspect transactions in Lebanon.

Lebanese judicial sources, investigating the bribes scandal, were reported as saying that al-Mashriq Lebanese Bank paid 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam 5m [million] dollars and Mustafa Talas 3m dollars in bribes to help the bank conclude suspicious transactions with the Syrian regime and its agents in Lebanese districts controlled by Syrian troops.

The sources stressed that "Rojeh Tamrez" [name as received], chairman of Al-Mashriq Bank's Board of Directors, who bribed the two Syrian officials, took refugee in Al-Mukhtarah town upon knowing that the scandal had come to light.

Afghanistan

'American Adviser,' 'Extremists' Killed in Konduz

LD1901063789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 18, BAKHTAR—In the past three days, 2500 surface-to-surface rockets were launched by the extremist groups into the areas of Konduz Province as a result of which seven persons including children and women were killed and 25 wounded. Ten houses, two production enterprises were also partially damaged there. Reciprocally, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, RA, inflicted crushing blows on them as a result of which the extremists lost 320 persons including an American and seven Arab advisers.

A mopping up operation was also conducted by the Armed Forces of the RA in different areas of Nangarhar Province. The operation claimed 43 dead and 31 wounded on the part of the extremist elements.

In Qandahar Province, the extremists have also lost 21 of their men. During these operations a large quantity of arms and ammunitions of the enemies fell at the hand of the Armed Forces.

Twenty surface to surface missiles which had been hidden by extremists groups in Arghandi [placename as received] suburbs of Kabul Province to be fired on residential areas of Kabul city were seized by the Armed Forces and defused today.

A total of over 500 extremist elements were eliminated by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan during the past week in different provinces.

'Mine' in Briefcase Defused at Kabul Airport

LD1901075089 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 18, BAKHTAR—The security forces of the Republic of Afghanistan has prevented the occurrence of a horrible incident here today, a military correspondent of BAKHTAR reports.

Individuals belonging to the extremist groups had deployed a magnetic mine in a briefcase which was placed in the surroundings of the terminal of Kabul International Airport.

However, the security forces detected and defused the mine in time.

Similarly, the Armed Forces inflicted crushing blows on the extremist elements in several districts of Nangarhar Province as a result of which over 80 extremist elements were killed and some were severely wounded.

Protest Notes 187, 188 Submitted to UN Mission

LD1901074989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 18, BAKHTAR—The 187th and the 188th notices of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) on the flagrant violation from the provision of the Geneva accords by Pakistan were submitted here today to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP).

The first notice draws attention of the mission to the publication of lies and fabrications in Pakistan against our country and it clearly states that Pakistan ignoring the provisions of the Geneva accords encourage the extremist groups based in Pakistan to publish hostile propaganda against the RA and puts all possibilities and facilities at the disposal of the extremists in this connection.

The 188th notice asks the UNGOMAP to investigate the inhumane behavior of those Pakistani military authorities against those Afghans who had been captured during the Pakistani militias attacks on the area of Towr Kham according to the article number seven and the document four of the said accords.

LE MONDE Interviews Former King Zahir Shah

PM1701153889 Paris LE MONDE in French 17 Jan 89 p 5

[Interview with former King Zahir Shah by Patrice Claude in Rome—date not given]

[Text] [Claude] Well, Your Majesty, are you packing your bags? (Smiles—LE MONDE editor's note)

[Zahir Shah] You know, the situation is so unstable and so changing, and there are so many imponderables. For the time being it is difficult to set a date, but the sooner the better.

[Claude] Have you set preconditions for your return?

[Zahir Shah] No, I have not put forward any preconditions or personal demands. My return to Afghanistan depends solely on the people's will, and I am prepared to carry out any role or mission with which they entrust me. I have always kept hoping that I would return to my country, and of course by that I mean an independent homeland free from any foreign occupation....

[Claude] Have you told the Soviets that? What happened at your 24 December meeting with Yuliy Vorontsov, Mr Gorbachev's special envoy?

[Zahir Shah] It was an exchange of views. He informed me of his positions, which are similar to mine and which are consistent with the Afghan people's wishes, namely independence, territorial integrity, and right to self-determination.

[Claude] Some mujahidin leaders in Peshawar (notably Hezb-e Eslami's Mr Hikmatyar) said that in coming to see you the Soviets were merely trying to divide the resistance?

[Zahir Shah] Those reactions stem from tiny groups which say absolutely anything. Mr Vorontsov's visit was part of a series of contacts which the Soviets decided to have with the Afghans. That is all. On principle, my door is always open to those who take initiatives to solve the conflict.

[Claude] Is it even open to the Kabul communist government? Would you receive Mr Najibullah, its head, if he asked you to?

[Zahir Shah] No. That government is neither legal nor legitimate, and that is why the whole people revolted against it. No, it would be impossible for me to receive him.

[Claude] But, if you met with him, what would you say?

[Zahir Shah] Resign. Resign immediately and give way to a transitional government.

[Claude] Would the communists be included in that government or not?

[Zahir Shah] No, a party which calls itself communist cannot play a role in the current phase because it is unacceptable for the majority of our fellow citizens. The first condition of success for a transitional government is that it can enjoy the citizens' confidence and that it is united.

[Claude] How can that be achieved?

[Zahir Shah] We think that there must be a Loya Jirgah (a big male assembly which is traditional in culture of the Pashtun tribe to which the former king belongs—LE MONDE editor's note), which represents all sections of society to enable it to give a verdict legitimately and legally.

[Claude] But some mujahidin groups are opposed to that. They say that the Loya Jirgah is a tribal and monarchical tool.

[Zahir Shah] Listen, our country's history proves that that is untrue. Loya Jirgahs were held even after my departure. But, if you like, we can call it an assembly; it is its composition which counts, not its name. The essential thing is that it should be representative of democracy.

[Claude] Surely that means that the communists should be included?

[Zahir Shah] They should certainly not be included as a party. But it is a difficult question, we must find another way of enabling the people in Kabul to participate.

[Claude] Who would chair that Loya Jirgah? Would it be you?

[Zahir Shah] Traditionally, when the assembly meets, it chooses a venerable figure—it may be the oldest man—who chairs the first session. After that the assembly elects the chairman for the rest of its meetings.

[Claude] You have contacts with a mujahidin group. What do they think?

[Zahir Shah] We have always had contacts with....

[Claude] ...all the groups?

[Zahir Shah] Are you talking about the people in Peshawar or the internal commanders?

[Claude] What about the people in Peshawar?

[Zahir Shah] Yes, we have contacts with them all. We have direct contacts with some and indirect contacts with others.... But, to return to your question, there are certainly many different views and proposals.

[Claude] Meanwhile, should the fighting be continued until Kabul falls, after the Soviet withdrawal?

[Zahir Shah] I hope that in the fairly near future, before the Russian withdrawal is completed, the efforts made on all sides will have been successful. Many efforts are now being made to achieve this objective, you know.

However, although Afghan communism can be divided into two separate periods, before and after the Soviet intervention, and although that intervention also has two phases, before and after Mr Gorbachev came to power, for the Afghans there has just been one long period of struggle and suffering. The Soviet withdrawal is a positive act, but the important thing is self-determination, which must be implemented. In the absence of that, the mujahidin think it is their duty to continue the struggle. That is a fact.

[Claude] Is there not a role for the United Nations there?

[Zahir Shah] Yes, it is up to the United Nations to prepare and organize the transitional period.

[Claude] Is there a possibility of sending in "blue helmets" to separate the warring factions?

[Zahir Shah] Why not, if the United Nations thinks it is necessary?

[Claude] Let us turn to the future. Is the republican system irreversible in Afghanistan and what form should it take? Should it be Islamic, theocratic, or secular?

[Zahir Shah] It is up to the people to decide by democratic means. The question does not concern me.

[Claude] Surely you have a preference?

[Zahir Shah] No, I really have none.

[Claude] Would an Islamic Republic not trouble you?

[Zahir Shah] Afghanistan has always maintained its Islamic values and its national traditions. It is an integral part of its life. I think that any government which is to be legitimate and, I hope, democratic will have to follow a line which is consistent with the aspirations of Afghanistan's Muslim people. If the majority want an Islamic republic, there is no problem.

[Claude] Should the whole communist legacy be discarded? Is there nothing worth keeping?

[Zahir Shah] I do not really see to what benefits you are referring.

[Claude] Your Majesty, why have you never visited the refugee camps in Pakistan in 15 years of exile?

[Zahir Shah] I will go when conditions are right. If you want to visit a country you need the host country's approval. Well, let us say that the question has not been raised officially....

India

Spokesman on U.S. Sale of F-16's to Pakistan

BK1901124489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that if the U.S. Government is to comply with the request of Pakistan to sell it 60 additional F-16 fighter aircraft, it will be matter of concern to the Indian Government.

Responding to queries by newsmen on press reports to this effect, the spokesman said it shows clearly that the consideration of such a sale is at a very preliminary stage in both the United States and Pakistan.

U.S. Congressman Solarz Continues Visit

Meets With Gandhi

BK1701162489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] The chairman of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Asia and Pacific, Mr Stephen Solarz, had wide-ranging discussions with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi yesterday. An official spokesman said their talks covered bilateral and regional issues. Both sides viewed optimistically the recent developments in the region, including those relating to China and Pakistan.

Mr Solarz and members of his delegation today visited Amritsar and Chandigarh. They went to the Golden Temple and Jalianwala Bagh.

Talking to newsmen in New Delhi this evening, Mr Solarz expressed the hope that the relations between India and Pakistan will further improve as the prime ministers of the two countries, Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Ms Benazir Bhutto, are committed to ease the tensions and strengthen the bilateral relations. Mr Solarz said both India and Pakistan should explore the possibilities of increasing bilateral trade and exchange programs in other fields.

Asked whether the United States should change its policy of supplying arms to Pakistan in the light of the latest developments in Afghanistan and India-Pakistan relations, the U.S. congressman said that there is a need for his country to review its policy.

About his visit to Punjab, Mr Solarz said that it was mainly to obtain a better understanding of the problem and to explore the possibility of a political solution to end terrorism there. He said the United States is committed to the territorial integrity of India and any solution should be within these parameters.

Discusses Israel With Rao

BK1801145289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, has conveyed to the visiting U.S. congressman, Mr Stephen Solarz, that there is no change in India's policy toward Israel. During their meeting in New Delhi today, Mr Narasimha Rao said that there is no immediate prospect of establishing diplomatic ties with that country.

Mr Solarz expressed happiness over his visit to Punjab yesterday. He told Mr Rao that he had come with a completely different picture of the alleged violation of human rights in the state. He said he was glad that this is entirely wrong.

The foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon, apprised Mr Solarz of the prime minister's visit to Pakistan and China.

Gandhi Comments on Pakistan, China, Sri Lanka

BK1901030389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has expressed the hope that Pakistan will not provide assistance to terrorists and fundamentalists in India. He said this would constitute the litmus test of their sincerity in wanting better relations with India.

In an interview to the DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, a monthly, Mr Gandhi said the key to the improvement of relations with Pakistan lies in faithful implementation of the Simla agreement.

About Sri Lanka, Mr Gandhi said that a sincere commitment to India-Sri Lanka agreement is required by all concerned if lasting peace and harmony is to be restored in the island. He said India would certainly like to withdraw its troops from Sri Lanka as soon as its task of helping in the implementation of the agreement is over.

Referring to China, Mr Gandhi said the prevalent atmosphere indicates that Beijing is interested in friendly ties with India.

Defending the government's policy of liberalization of economy, Mr Gandhi said full benefits of these initiatives would be felt in coming years. He said the country's economy is all set to achieve the target of 5 percent GDP [gross domestic product] growth per year.

Gandhi on Bangladesh Refugees, Burma Situation
BK1801125789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, says continuous influx of minority refugees from Bangladesh is causing concern. Talking to newsmen at Agartala Airport today, he said it is high time Bangladesh did something definite so as to make their minorities feel safe.

Referring to Burma, the prime minister said we respect the democratic aspirations of the Burmese people, but the situation in that country now is disturbing though apparently calm.

Asked about the growing drug trafficking into the northeastern states, Mr Gandhi said the center will concentrate on stopping it through the eastern border now that some success has been achieved on the western border.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi then went to Silchar on way to Mizoram. Answering queries of newsmen at Silchar Airport, he said the question of coalition with other parties after elections in Mizoram does not arise at the moment.

Later addressing a public meeting at Devagiri in Mizoram, Mr Rajiv Gandhi made it clear that the government will not tolerate any violence or insurgency.

Addressing another public meeting in Dimapur in Nagaland, he renewed the call to the underground extremists to eschew violence and join the national mainstream.

Karnataka Irrigation Minister Asked To Resign
BK1901090489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] The Karnataka irrigation minister, Mr Deva Gowda, has resigned from the state cabinet. He told our correspondent in New Delhi this morning that he submitted his resignation letter to the chief minister, Mr S.R. Bommai, as per his demand. The Karnataka chief minister is also in the capital.

Mr Deva Gowda earlier announced his firm decision to stay with the Janata Party. Mr Deva Gowda had a meeting with the former Janata Party president, Mr Chandrasekhar, yesterday.

Heroin, Gold 'From Pakistan' Seized in Rajasthan
BK1801130489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Police seized heroin worth about 103 crore rupees from a gang of 6 smugglers after a brief encounter in the Karanpur sector of Ganganagar District of Rajasthan last night.

Gold worth over 1 crore rupees was also recovered. Police say heroin and gold biscuits were concealed in a car and truck. Two persons were nabbed, while the rest of the smugglers escaped. Police believe the contraband goods were being smuggled from Pakistan.

Iran

Khomeyni, Ayatollah Montazeri Meet 19 Jan
LD1901110789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Grand Ayatollah Montazeri met this morning with Imam Khomeyni, great leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They discussed various issues concerning the country. Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Hadi Hashemi was also present.
of Revolution
LD1801115189 Tehran IRNA in English 1124 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—Imam Khomeyni called on the compiler of the history of the Islamic revolution to record events as they were and always remember the great responsibility facing him in this task. But he said: "You should show how people rose up against oppression, tyranny, dogmatism and backwardness and... substituted royal Islam, capitalist Islam, hypocritical Islam, and in short American Islam for the genuine Islam of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him.)."

In a letter published Wednesday to Hojjat ol-Eslam Hamid Ruhani the head of the documents center of the Islamic revolution the imam thanked Ruhani for his efforts to write the history of the Islamic revolution. He also thanked the cultural section of the Martyrs Foundation for helping Ruhani.

The imam urged him to clearly draw how a few devouted 'ulema after the June 1963 uprising led by the imam, suffered oppression, accusations of working against Islam and betrayal. But they stepped up their struggle without fear until "they emerged victorious in the unequal battle between faith and blasphemy, science and superstition, intellectualism and dogmatism."

Ruhani has written the only thorough biography of Imam Khomeyni in a two volume work "Nehzat Imam Khomeyni" (Imam Khomeyni's Movement). The first volume published just before the Islamic revolution covers events up to the imam's exile in 1964 and the second printed two years ago details the period prior to the growing popular movement that led to the overthrow of the monarchy. Ruhani was a close aide during the imam's 15 years in exile in Al-Najaf, Iraq.

Imam Khomeyni expressed hope that the "epic and eventful history" of the Islamic revolution would be registered just as it happened. The imam told Ruhani: "As a historian, you should be aware that you are responsible for a great work." Most wrote histories in a manner they wished or were instructed, but not to tell the truth and they knew in advance what their books would lead to, he said.

"I want you to do your best to specify the goal of the people's uprising because historians have always sacrificed the aims of revolutions for their and their masters' prejudices," the imam added. "The pillars of the history of the Islamic revolution, like the revolution itself, should be on the shoulders of the bare-footed people, disfavoured by powers and the superpowers."

"There is a lot to talk about but I don't feel like writting more than this," the leader of the Islamic revolution said.

Tehran Radio Cites Bush Remarks on Relations

LD1801120189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] George Bush, the future President of the United States, in an interview with an AP correspondent, said that in his opinion the United States and Iran need not continue their hostility toward each other and Iran can, by taking certain steps, help free U.S. hostages in Lebanon, thus demonstrating its interest in establishing relations with the United States.

Bush added that as the President of the United States, he would be looking for any opportunities that could bring about the release of the hostages. He remarked that the change in the U.S. Government can transform unhealthy U.S. relations with other countries.

Reportage on Visit of Venezuelan President-Elect

Greeted by Khamene'i

LD1701180189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] The president-elect of Venezuela arrived in Tehran this afternoon on an official visit to our country. Our colleague reports on this:

Mr. Carlos Andres Perez, the present-elect of Venezuela, this afternoon arrived in Tehran heading a political-economic delegation. On his arrival, he was welcomed by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and several of the ministers. In an interview at Mehrabad Airport, the president-elect of Venezuela detailed the reasons for his trip to Iran: the expansion of relations between the two countries and talks concerning OPEC issues.

Mr Khamene'i referred to issues of common interest to Iran and Venezuela and said: During this trip talks will be conducted on how to expand relations between the two countries and also on issues concerning OPEC and the Nonaligned Movement.

Discusses OPEC With Velayati

LD1801095589 Tehran IRNA in English 0756 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—Visiting Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez in a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Tuesday evening discussed bilateral relations and international and oil related issues.

Perez who arrived here Tuesday on a 1-day visit, stressed unity among members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). He pointed out that a unified OPEC could be an effective tool in development of Third World countries.

He also announced his country's readiness to take part in post-war reconstruction of Iran and cooperate with Iran in international circles.

Velayati praised efforts of the Venezuelan president for strengthening of OPEC and stabilizing oil prices. He emphasised that Iran as an OPEC member will work towards the same objective. He also raised Iraqi obstruction of Iran-Iraq peace talks on implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 aimed at ending the Iraq-Iran war.

Discusses Oil With Khamene'i

LD1801115489 Tehran IRNA in English 1135 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Wednesday that industrial nations had amassed great wealth by utilizing oil while oil producing nations were suffering.

In a meeting with the visiting Venezuelan president-elect, Carlos Andres Perez, he said oil producers should build their future and utilize their wealth for infrastructural investments. "This would be possible only when the real price of oil is observed," he stressed.

During the meeting in which Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh was present, the Venezuelan leader referring to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said the two countries could cooperate in giving direction to OPEC.

"We are not only after stabilization of fair oil prices but OPEC should be changed into an important tool for safeguarding interests of Third World countries," Perez said.

Oil reserves should be utilized according to calculated policies because they belonged to future generations. Thus "it is our legitimate right to rely on real oil prices."

Stressing the importance of common planning between Iran and Venezuela in the oil sector, he declared his country's readiness for exchange of experiences in this regard. Perez also emphasised further coordination and exchange of views at international fora.

Turning to the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) and Venezuela's impending membership, Khamene'i said countries with common interests in the Third World should cooperate with one another.

Referring to Iran's active participation in the movement, he said superpowers did not like the movement to be active and prefered it to be ceremonial. "On the contrary, Iran believes it should be a real and active organization involved in all world affairs related to the nonaligned countries," Khamene'i said.

On mutual relations, President Khamene'i welcomed expansion of Tehran-Caracas ties and exchange of experiences in the field of oil.

The president said the two countries have had friendly cooperation especially in this sector and expressed pleasure that ties would improve with the Venezuelan president's visit. He said the outlook of bilateral cooperation was clear and ensured that the existing Tehran-Caracas friendly ties would expand in future.

Present in the meeting were also Presidential Advisor Mustafa Mir-Salim and Venezuelan ambassador here Jose Rafael Zanoni. Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i and Perez held private talks before the meeting.

The Venezuelan president-elect arrived here Tuesday heading a politico-economic delegation for a one-day visit.

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1801180089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez today conferred with Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani. At this meeting, which took place in the presence of the senior presidential adviser and our country's oil minister, together with several Majlis deputies and Foreign Ministry officials, Mr Andres Perez referred to the experiences of friendship and cooperation between Iran and Venezuela, saying: We have followed with approval your efforts to raise the welfare standards of your country's people.

The Venezuelan president-elect then pointed to the interest of the oil-producing countries in maintaining OPEC's stability, saying: We believe OPEC should be at the service of the Nonaligned Movement's objectives. If we want to have a new international economic system, we should rely on our own resources. In this sense, we should strengthen our unity.

Then Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised the Venezuelan president-elect for urging stronger unity among the oil-producing OPEC countries and said: Before and after the victory of the Islamic revolution, the thought that the rights of the oil-producing countries were being plundered by big companies and industrial countries poisoned our minds. This problem not only has an economic dimension, but many political aspects as well. It is quite clear that the chief oil consumers—the advanced countries—have clearly calculated plans to protect their illegitimate interests.

He added: Unfortunately, some OPEC members are serving these consumers. Perhaps the only justification for this situation is that political issues and the maintenance of certain people in their seats of power is more important for them than the interests of their country.

The Majlis speaker then remarked: Instead of the consumers of this valuable resource being worried about this whole problem, it is the oil producers themselves who are concerned. We know that if the industrial countries had this valuable resource, they would create such problems for the Third World countries that their situation would have become intolerable.

Speaks to Correspondents

LD1801183989 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Unidentified correspondent's report from Mehrabad Airport in Tehran]

[Text] Following a 2-day stay in Tehran, President-elect Carlos Andres Perez, who is visiting several OPEC member states in the Middle East, left the Islamic Republic of Iran this afternoon. He was seen off by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

The Venezuelan president [as heard] has already visited Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates. On leaving Iran, he will pay a visit to Iraq. Accompanied on these visits by several of his top aides, Mr Andres Perez has met or will meet the heads of states of these countries. In addition to topics of mutual interest, he is discussing OPEC problems and the coordination of an oil policy among OPEC members.

In a talk with reporters before his departure from Tehran, the Venezuelan president termed his talks with Iranian officials as successful. Expressing thanks for our president's warm hospitality, he expressed his wishes for the health and long life of the imam of the ummah. He said: In my talks with Iranian officials, we discussed various topics of mutual interest and long-standing common positions were emphasized.

Concerning oil and OPEC issues, he said that fruitful talks were held and that he was convinced the two countries would succeed in bringing about unity among the OPEC members in line with the interests of their respective nations. He added that the two countries' friendly relations were confirmed once again and that sustained efforts would be made to strengthen those ties.

Meanwhile, Mr Khamene'i said: Decisions were made some time ago to bring about unity within OPEC. The Venezuelan president's visit to various countries, including Iran, is in line with expanding ties. Mr Khamene'i added: We have made many efforts in this regard. In the course of bilateral talks, it was discovered that the two countries share similar views.

The president of the Republic said that he and the Venezuelan president discussed bilateral ties, the problems of the nonaligned countries, and Third World unity in the face of waves [mojha] sent by the superpowers. He said he felt the future of the two countries' relations would be very good.

Earlier, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez met President Khamene'i. In this meeting, he expressed his delight over the visit and his hopes that it would be a beginning for expanding their ties. Referring to the potential of Iran and Venezuela within OPEC, he called for joint planning on oil matters.

Mr Khamene'i confirmed the Venezuelan president's view, saying that oil was a finite wealth that now is at the disposal of our countries; it must have a realistic and fair price. Mr Khamene'i also said that unexplored fields abounded in bilateral relations, and that the two countries must try to identify them.

Prime Minister Holds Talks With Italian Leaders

For Italian and Iranian reportage of the visit by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi to Italy, including his meetings with Italian President Cossiga, Prime Minister de Mita, Foreign Minister Andreotti, and Pope John Paul II, see the Italy & The Vatican section of the 17 January West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Trade, Construction Protocol Signed With Italy

LD1901003789 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—An economic-trade protocol was concluded at the end of the visit to Italy by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi's high-powered delegation.

The protocol was inked in Rome Tuesday by Minister of Mines and Metals Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi and Italy's Foreign Trade Minister Renato Ruggiero in the presence of the two countries' premiers.

At a news conference on his return from Italy today, Ayatollahi said the protocol dwells on ways to solve the existing dispute regarding construction of Martyr Rajai jetty at Bandar-e 'Abbas port awarded to an Italian company.

Also included in the protocol is an increase in Iran's crude oil exports to Italy to total 200,000 barrels a day, purchase of more non-oil Iranian products by Italian companies, completion of petro-chemical units awarded to Italy earlier, and allocation of special credit to Iranian companies by Italian designers to expand volume of bilateral trade exchanges.

In addition, Italy will help build two power stations in Esfahan with a total capacity of 640 megawatt, transfer technical knowhow and complete construction of four units of the Mobarakeh steel complex.

Ayatollahi said he also held talks with the Italian minister of state cooperation on granting of various credit facilities to Iran and invited him to visit Iran to continue further discussions.

The second session of the Iran-Italy joint economic commission is to be held next June in Rome. The first session was held last year in Tehran.

Prime minister left Rome for Warsaw Tuesday.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Palestinian Issue

PM1901095189 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
22 Dec 88 p 18

[Interview with Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani; date, place not given]

[Text] [KEYHAN] Palestine now has become one of the most important issues of the Middle East and the Islamic world. The Islamic Republic of Iran must present clear and defined policies in this regard. In general, what is the Islamic Republic's policy on this issue?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. That is correct. Palestine has become an important world issue these days. The world is paying attention to it, as it should. During this century, Palestine has been the most important issue in the world, and the situation has now reached a sensitive stage, and deserves special attention. The Islamic Republic must pay special attention to it within the scope of internationalism and Islam.

As far as I am concerned, the question is clear and definitive. One of our basic policies, even before the success of the revolution, was that Palestine must be returned to the Palestinian people. We do not in any way accept its occupation by non-Palestinians. The struggle to get back Palestine is one of a Muslim's main duties. We also do not accept a divided Palestine. In fact, no one should accept this. Palestine belonged to the Palestinian people, most of whom became refugees. Then another group of people came from all over the world, took it over, and were supported in this move by the colonial powers. Therefore, our position on this issue is clear, and we also have expressed our views about other current matters.

[KEYHAN] You said in an interview with Austrian television that the solution to the Palestinian issue would be the creation of a country not purely Jewish or non-Jewish. Could you please give more details about this? Is this not similar to the plan suggested by the Palestinians in the 1970's that calls for the creation of a democratic, nonreligious country in Palestine?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] [Words illegible] I shall now present a possible solution. Before its present state, the majority of the people in Palestine were Arabs and Muslims. Jews also were living there. Of course, their numbers before the Balfour agreement were very small. Slowly, the policy of converting Palestine into a Jewish land was followed with the immigration of Jews, and this has gone on until the present, resulting in a Jewish majority in that country. These Jews arrived from all over the world, from Europe, Arab countries, India, Iran, and other parts of the world. Many also come from Africa.

The reality is that the majority of people there now are Jewish. It is not practical to say that they should all go back to the places from where they came. We then would have another human issue and another group of refugees. Of course, this could be achieved as a long-term plan for the future.

Now, if we believe the world is determined to resolve the issue of Palestine, to remove from this region a cancerous growth that inflicts cruelty and creates an arms race, the solution is to have all the Palestinian people return to their homeland. Those already there must not be expelled by force. This group would then form a democratic government. Of course, with the return of the Palestinians to their homeland, they would be in the majority. This is the fair way to resolve the issue, if the two sides agree.

[KEYHAN] Does not this plan imply the recognition of Israel?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Not at all. It rejects Israel. It means there would not be a government or nation called Israel.

[KEYHAN] In reality, this plan is different from the one proposed by the Palestine National Council which calls for an independent Palestinian state. Today's understanding is that the creation of an independent Palestinian state means the recognition of Israel.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The plan could have existed without formally recognizing Israel. What is now being discussed, and which the PLO has accepted, is the division of Israel. This means the creation of a Palestinian state on some Palestinian soil. The other part, which forms the majority, would remain as Israel.

This is the minimum that the Israelis have wanted in a set of demands. In 1967 when the Israelis took the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, they spoke about "land for peace." It was willing to give back this land in return for peace with the Arabs and also recognition from the Arabs. No one accepted this plan in those days. It was impossible for an Arab or a Muslim to accept. However, little by little, the Arabs were so weak and the Israelis so bold that the Palestinians now have accepted this plan and consider it a victory. An organization created to deny the existence of Israel has now accepted this issue. The PLO has now accepted the division of Palestine, not even the UN division which divided Palestine into two equal halves, more or less.

[KEYHAN] If we disregard what 'Arafat recently said, the statement issued in Algeria on Palestinian independence stressed the creation of a Palestinian state on that soil. There is also no mention of recognizing Israel.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] What happens then to the resolutions they have accepted? It says very clearly in these resolutions that the existence of Israel in the area under question must remain.

[KEYHAN] Do you not think the statement of Palestinian independence could be a source of hope, a solution to avoid accepting Israel? When the Palestinians have taken power in parts of Palestine, could the statement then be used as an excuse to get back the rest of Palestine, to claim sovereignty over the entire country?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This is exactly what the Israelis are saying. They say this issue contains uncertainties and the PLO and 'Arafat must be more clear about this. There are those who think that the independence statement was drawn up for the PLO to tell its people that at least it has not given some of the land to the Israelis and to tell the Americans and the Israelis: Look we recognize you, what more do you want?

The United States would not talk to the PLO until it recognized Israel. Of course, I also accept the point that the statement was written in such a way that the Palestinians one day could turn around and say: This is really what we meant. But the real issue is that the Israelis do not accept this and until such time that they clarify certain things, they are not going to accept it. Both the United States and Israel will make sure that the no vague points remain to be raised at a later date.

[KEYHAN] Could not the Palestinian statement of independence be regarded as a step forward?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] If we look at things in a general way, one could accept such a tactical move. This means some Palestinians will make a sacrifice and say that we have taken back some of Palestine, we have formed a Palestinian government. On the other hand, some Palestinians say we do not accept this plan and advocate armed struggle until the all Israelis are removed and all Palestine is liberated. So, there are those who want to liberate all Palestine; the only difference is that in the past the Palestinians did not have a homeland. Everywhere they went, the people and the governments would throw them out—Lebanon and Jordan for example—or else they were attacked by the Israelis.

If the situation evolves into one group of Palestinians accepting Israel and setting up a homeland there and another group moving into this homeland in order to continue its struggle, then this is good. There is another side to the coin. What would happen if the Arab countries now supporting the Palestinian struggle withheld their support and promised not to back the struggle against Israel? How would the Palestinian resistance continue its struggle then? Presently, the Palestinians are funded by the Muslim and Arab nations. Many of their families are in the Arab states and they receive financial and propaganda aid in their struggle for Palestine.

The Arab countries now may say that everything is finished after the establishment of a Palestinian state in that land. They may accept the international borders and may no longer want a struggle against Israel. They also may ask the Palestinians to stop their struggle. There will be great danger if that happens. In reality, the ideals of Palestine will be destroyed and the Palestinian resistance will no longer be able to fight. They will not have a place in Palestine and their refugee status will be worse than before.

Of course, even if that happens, this group will not be totally helpless. Even if the Arab countries do not accept them, they could continue their armed struggle with a freer hand. They would no longer need to worry about being called terrorists. I feel this is probably what will happen. Recent events show things are headed in that direction. In any case, this is what will happen if the question of Palestine is not resolved in a fundamental manner.

There will be a Palestinian movement and a Palestinian country that will have its own government. Those who are more pure and revolutionary will follow their strict armed struggle against Israeli interests throughout the world, and they will even go inside Israel. In which case, the United States will not achieve its goal of eliminating terrorism.

[KEYHAN] What do you think are the roots of PLO policies? Some believe that the PLO was forced into armed struggle because of a lack of real support from the Arab countries. Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, and Syria are not prepared to allow the Palestinians to use their countries for a struggle against Israel. So, as the Palestinians were not able to use these lands for their armed struggle, they were forced into accepting a policy of peace.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This is true. One must honestly accept that the Palestinians want to fight against Israel, but they need a place from which to stage that fight. The Palestinians in Jordan could not achieve that aim, as seen in the Black September massacres. They also were not accepted in Lebanon. They were attacked inside the refugee camps in Lebanon. The Lebanese would not tolerate them, and fights occurred in the camps daily. In addition, Israel bombed their camps in Lebanon. When the Palestinians went to Tunisia, the Israelis again bombed their headquarters in the country farthest away from Israel. And no one suported or backed them.

It does not matter in what country they are. If they do not have land and if no one supports them, they cannot save themselves. The power of the United States and the supporters of Israel are such that they have made the Arab countries afraid of a Palestinian presence. They have put pressure on them. If the Arab nations had bravely accepted the Palestinians and had given them enough ground to maneuver, as well as equipment, the issue could have been resolved.

However, there is yet another side to the issue: The Palestinians gradually started to think of themselves as a semi-government. THey wanted to establish a place for themselves in the world. They wanted a place alongside world leaders. This was a positive move in the sense that the Palestinians could now say what they wanted. It was negative move in that this kind of activity has limits and boundaries. One cannot have a private jet to go anywhere in the world and then sling a revolver around his shoulder as a revolutionary.

It must be said that if the Palestinians really wanted armed struggle, they could have done so to a certain extent even without Arab support. They have thousands of sacrificing followers who could have struck against Israeli and U.S. interests throughout the world. They could have left the United States and Israel breathless. They could have struck within the boundaries of the United States itself. They could have used the facilities of the Arab countries and they could have brought those two countries to their knees.

However, in the last few years the Palestinians did not act in that way. They wanted to stage a struggle as if they had a government. Armed struggle needs territory and no Arab country was prepared to let them use its land as a launching pad. All the blame cannot be assigned totally to the Arab nations, however. The fault was their own in some cases. If they had wanted to fight, I feel that with their human resources, they could have done so. The people in Islamic countries were supportive, even though the governments were not.

[KEYHAN] Can one compare the Palestinian issue with Iran's acceptance of UN Resolution 598? Many people think our acceptance of that resolution was like the Palestinians' acceptance of Resolutions 242 and 338. We reached a stage where we gave up on some of our war slogans, and that was because of certain conditions that were imposed on us. Could it be that in a way this is what happened to the Palestinians?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This comparison is not correct in any way. Here, the case is opposite. The war was imposed on us. We did not want the war and we did not want to export our revolution through war. The war was imposed on us.

During the war we introduced the slogan of wanting to punish the aggressor in order to liberate the people of Iraq. But we reached a stage where we realized that the price of that slogan was higher than we thought. All we wanted was to punish the aggressor. The problem now is that the aggressor has not been punished. In any case, the Iraqis started the war, and they had some goals which they did not achieve. One must now say to them, or ask them, why they accepted the resolution, because at fist they did not want it.

Of course, I must also say that according to our point of view, Saddam is not like Israel. Israel is an occupier, it has taken over a country, it has made refugees. But Iraq is Saddam's own country. He himself is an Iraqi. Of course, he is a dictator in his own country. However, there are many such dictators in Islamic and other countries. Our mission is not to bring down every dictator. We do not have the means; it is not our goal.

The Iraqi regime started the war because of internal threats. It wanted to use our weakness to dissect our country. It wanted to become the guardian of the Persian Gulf, its policeman. It failed. The ony thing people can ask us is why we introduced the slogan "War, war until the fall of Saddam" from the middle of the war.

The nature of this is quite different. We cannot regard Saddam as we do the rulers of Israel. Saddam runs a [words illegible] dictatorship and is cruel to his people. He was cruel to us too. We wanted revenge but [words illegible] were not successful. This is different from the Palestine issue—a country has been taken over, and its real owners kicked out. Now it is not right to give back the Palestinians some of their land and say: This bit is yours and the rest is ours.

[KEYHAN] One theory says the Palestinian issue and its recent development are part of an international chain of events; that is, the superpowers in the 1980's have reached agreement over regional crisis centers. The solutions to the questions of Angola, Namibia, Cambodia, and the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan are all part of this chain of events. The superpowers supported Iraq in the Persian Gulf and put pressure on us to accept Resolution 598. In this way, they appear to have resolved that issue. Recent developments in the Palestinian issue are just another issue. Recent developments in the Palestinian issue are just another link in this chain. How do you feel about this theory?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The fact that there is some sort of understanding among the superpowers has some truth. There are some conditions now existing even in the communist bloc that would prepare them to live more at peace with the West: the destruction of some nuclear weapons, talks between the Soviets and the Chinese and between the Chinese and the Japanese over border issues, in addition to talks going on about the Polisario issue and the Sahara question.

I see most of the reasons behind these conditions in the moves made by Gorbachev. The Soviets have concluded that the Marxist world cannot fight the West the way things are at the moment, because the West has more resources. So the Soviets make the first move. They want to have peaceful coexistence. They could have continued in Afghanistan like before, of course, suffering casualties and so forth, but they preferred to get out.

One cannot take the issue of a revolution, like the Palestinian one, so lightly. Of course, if a revolution wants to make itself palatable to the world and if it wants to be part of the global equation, this is what happens. But we feel a nation fighting for its land and having a goal does not have to surrender. The Palestinian movement will face these problems if it wants to become a formal government and take part in world bodies.

The Palestinian movement could continue as a revolutionary movement until it reaches its goals. Israel's existence is like a foreign body entering another body. The foreign element finally will be gotten rid of. Israel cannot continue to maintain the present conditions forever. Moreover, the Palestinian people do not have to accept world decisions; they can resist them.

[KEYHAN] Despite the position taken by the PLO leadership in the war against Iran, what are Iran's conditions for improving relations with the PLO?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We have announced our policies with regard to recent issues. The Palestinians have established a state and we must not oppose them. We would have accepted it, even if they had formed a government in exile. There is no problem with that. The problem is that the issue has become confused. They mixed right with wrong.

Alongside the formation of a country, they accepted resolutions which accepted the State of Israel and dissected Palestine. We must not say that we accept their actions totally or not at all. We accept the part that deals with the creation of a Palestinian state. We accept anything that liberates a part of Palestine—anywhere, anytime, even if it is in a Palestinian town, if there is a Palestinian government in any part of Palestine.

However, we do not accept all the promises this government must make. We accept the country of Palestine, even a government in exile. We could have contact and relations. But, we do not accept all their promises, including partition. They could do other wrong things in the future, which we will not accept.

[KEYHAN] Will you do anything on the part of the Islamic Republic to improve relations, because they are cold now? The KEYHAN reporter at the Palestine National Council in Algiers interviewed Munir Shafiq who is known as an Islamic figure. He also disagreed with the resolutions reached at Algiers, seeing them as incapable of solving any problems. But he also criticized Iran for shifting from its previous position in the last few years. He said Iran's position had changed, that the sayings of the imam or Grand Ayatollah Montazeri had been put aside. He added that the Palestinian issue had lost its place in the minds of Iranian officials and was no longer a priority.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] There are two sides to the question. First, what can we do with a Palestinian state? A Palestinian government would not be any less than any other country with whom we have relations, such as Jordan, Britain, or France. We have relations with these other countries, so we must have relations with the state and government of Palestine. We must cooperate with them, exchange ambassadors, and so forth. In any case, the innocent and deprived people of Palestine from all over the world would gather in their own country, and we must help them. This is something else.

But, they have no cause to complain. Even during war, we sent troops to Lebanon, and they are still there. The main reason we are there is to help Palestine and the struggle of the Muslims against Israel. We are ready to train them there, give them arms, money, and aid, but they did not want to fight. We have not accepted the actions of the PLO in the last few years. How can we support that of which we do not approve?

Inside Palestine, we accept all fighters and Muslims. For us, the fighters inside Palestine are like the Hizballah in Lebanon. We are willing to help them in any way. We will help in any way we see fit anyone who is willing to fight against Israel.

[KEYHAN] It is true that we do not accept some policies of the Palestinians or the recent moves made by the PLO. But as you said, we have relations with countries with whom we are more hostile and our differences with the PLO leadership cannot even be compared with those. Yet, we have diplomatic relations with those other countries. Could we not have warmer relations with the Palestinians? In any case, these are their complaints.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] They made some moves which were not right. They went to Iraq while we were at war with it. They told us many times that they knew Saddam was fighting a revolution that was real. So why did they become so friendly with someone who was waging war against a revolution which the Palestinians themselves said they respected? They cooperated with them. They even had relations with counterrevolutionaries like the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization]. Of course, these things have no effect on us. They wanted to show their bitterness. All this time we maintained our relations with the Palestinian movement.

We are even willing to help and cooperate with the PLO and its leadership if they are willing to fight. Of course, we will give priority to those movements we accept. If there is an Islamic current in Palestine, and there is, it is more pleasing to us and we will do more for it. Of course, we are not hostile toward other Palestinian bodies and we should not be. We do not accept some of the things they do and say, but this is not a major issue since there are many policies in the world that we do not accept.

[KEYHAN] There are some people and even some Palestinian circles that believe Iraq used the initial rift between Iran and the PLO to its own advantage, because Iran made a tactical error. They say Iran worsened the side-line differences with the PLO, allowing Saddam to take advantage of the issue and become closer to the PLO leadership. This happened even though the PLO had some severe differences with Iraq in the past and Iraq had killed some PLO leaders. But later, it used Iran's mistakes and was able to entice the PLO through financial and spiritual aid to take positions against Iran in the war. If Iran had taken a more sensible position, it could have prevented this situation. How do you feel about this?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This is a very simple way of looking at things. Saddam's suporters in the Arab countries brought about this situation—the same ones who have brought matters this far—accepting the UN resolutions and recognizing Israel. They dragged the Palestinians into positions against Iran and alongside Iraq.

We did not make a tactical error in our cooperation with them. We helped them at the beginning of the revolution, giving them the Israeli Embassy. We did whatever we could to help them. At the beginning, we were busy with the revolution and then the war. At the same time, we told them we were ready to help them. I do not think we reneged on anything. I feel they fell into this state because of calculations in the Arab world.

[KEYHAN] What sort of financial aid has Iran given so far to the uprising in the occupied territories—at least to the Islamic factions within Palestine?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Perhaps we are not willing to discuss this. If you can get in touch with the Palestinians, you can ask them yourself. The final issue is that we will seek out and help any Palestinian and any Muslim Palestinian who fights against Israel.

[KEYHAN] Practically the entire international community, except for Israel and the United States, has accepted the creation of a Palestinian state. Even some Arab countries such as Libya and Syria have accepted it in some way. The Islamic Republic has to make its position clear and must speak its mind clearly when it comes to this issue. The last official position we had from Iran came from Mr Lavasani in Geneva. He said we support the creation of a Palestinian state on Palestinian soil and we reject any action that would be taken to mean the acceptance of Israel.

This seems unclear. We must speak more precisely. Even the remarks by the top leadership of the country like yourself and Mr Khamene'i or those made by the prime minister on the day after the declaration of an independent Palestinian state are contradictory.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I see no vagueness in the issue. Mr Khamene'i and I had discussions on the subject and we took a position. We support the formation of a Palestinian state on any portion of Palestinian land. This does not mean we accept everything that the Palestinians or the Palestinian government would do.

The issue is somewhat complicated. The Palestinians did two things: They formed a country and accepted Israel. It was hard to separate the two and this is why there is some confusion. There is still a Palestinian Embassy in Tehran. They could say this is the embassy of the government of Palestine.

[KEYHAN] Could we have an ambassador and an embassy in their country?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes, we could. Neither the Foreign Ministry nor any of us are opposed to the formation of a Palestinian state. But the issue became confused. Libya and Syria took the same position. Libya condemned the acceptance of Israel and Syria rejected it in even stronger terms. Of course, these countries can do what they like and we have nothing to do with that. We speak about our own position.

Cabinet Reviews Afghanistan, Lebanon Issues

LD1801171388 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—The cabinet today reviewed the recent developments in Afghanistan and Lebanon and stressed the need for an end to the crises.

Foreign Minister Ali 'Akbar Velayati reported on the Afghan problem and called for exchange of views among parties concerned as regards the future of that country.

The cabinet chaired by Interior Minister Hoj. 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi—in the absence of Premier Hoseyn Musavi who is visiting Warsaw—emphasized Iran's "strategy" to help solve the Afghan issue.

Earlier this week, a two day seminar on Afghanistan's future was held here by the Foreign Ministry's Institute for Political and International Studies, attended by all leading mujahidin leaders.

Expressing "concern" over the fratricidal clashes in southern Lebanon, the cabinet announced support for any plan which guarantees a peaceful end to the Amal-Hizballah dispute.

Pakistan

Bhutto Urges Peaceful Solution to Problems

BK1901085289 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has said her government's policy is to promote national reconciliation and brotherhood, leading to congenial atmosphere

in the country for the well-being of the people. She was talking to newsmen at the airport on her arrival in Lahore this morning. She appealed to the people to strengthen the hands of the government to realize these high objectives. All our problems should be solved through discussions and dialogue in a peaceful friendly atmosphere.

The prime minister said the nation has suffered enough in the past and it was time to put a permanent end to such a traumatic experience. The government would steadfastly adhere to the path of democracy. She said the government would not make any matter of ego and prestige [as heard], adding that her party leaders have also been advised to exercise restraint.

Earlier, on her arrival, she was received among others by the governor general, retired, Tikka Khan; federal ministers; and industrial representatives.

Paper Hails Outcome of SAARC Summit

BK1301142789 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Jan 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Positive Beginning"]

[Text] The fourth summit meeting of the leaders of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] which ended in Islamabad on December 31 was the finest collective achievement of the regional states in 1988. It closed the year on a note of optimism, managing considerable gains at the meeting in both its functional field and its unofficial role. Apart from taking a number of decisions on important subjects, many of which directly relate to the well-being of the people, the summit also issued a Declaration which was appropriate to the need of the times.

The Islamabad Declaration, as it has been termed, called for renewed efforts to promote better understanding among the member states and for launching a collective struggle aimed at the betterment of the people of the region. It also articulated the resolve and determination of the SAARC leaders to halt the nuclear race and eliminate the nuclear threat, and to support every effort to conclude a treaty prohibiting vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Apart from the thematic aspects of the Declaration which represented a meeting of the minds on some vital international and regional political subjects, its operative parts dealt with a number of important regional issues that covered a wide spectrum of economic and social activity. Of specific significance is the designation of 1989 as the "SAARC year against drug abuse", 1990 as the "SAARC year of the girl child" and the launching of "SAARC 2000". With the Association having overcome its teething troubles, it is now in a position to translate its decisions and plans in the large number of fields it has identified for cooperation among the regional states.

The fourth summit, therefore, can rightly be considered as heralding the beginning of its operative phase when the detailed groundwork that had been undertaken in the past, will be put into effect. Although it has not yet taken up work on some of the more difficult fields like regional trade and economy, it has, however, done much to create an infrastructure which would be in a position to gradually deal with the remaining issues.

The achievement of the summit on its unofficial track as an informal clearing house for the regional leaders to take up bilateral issues between concerned states, has been immense. The summit made it possible to materialise a much needed meeting between the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and his newly elected Pakistani counterpart, Ms Benazir Bhutto. Although it is not a tradition, but the geographical and political linkage between the two countries makes such a meeting essential if relations have to be maintained at a stable level.

The Benazir Bhutto-Rajiv Gandhi intense talks, apart from affording them an opportunity to directly exchange views, also resulted in the signing of three agreements, one of which is of great import. Much of the preparatory work for these accords had already been completed before the new government came to power in Pakistan, but the formal signing of the agreements clearly signified the ushering in of a new phase of cordiality and understanding in their relations. It can be expected that with such a positive beginning having been made between the two important South Asian leaders, the future holds a promise of peace and stability for the region.